The Journal
OF THE
Jamaica Agricultural Society.

The more people do the more they can do; he who does nothing renders himself incapable of doing anything; while we are executing one work we are preparing ourselves for undertaking another.

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BOARD OF MANAGEMENT.

THE usual monthly meeting of the Board of Management of the Jamaica Agricultural Society was held at the office of the Society, No. 11 North Parade, Kingston, on Thursday, the 20th February, 1913, at 11.40 a.m. Present:—His Excellency the Hon. P. C. Cork, C.M.G., Acting Governor, in the chair, Sir John Pringle, K.C.M.G., Hons. the Director of Agriculture, D. Campbell, George McGrath, S. S. Stedman, J. R. Williams and Messrs. R. Craig, A. W. Douet, A. C. L. Martin, E.W. Muirhead, Conrad Watson, and the Secretary, John Barclay.

An apology for absence was submitted from the Hon. R. P. Simmonds, who was indisposed.

The Minutes of the last meeting having been printed and circulated, were taken as read, and with the correction of some printers' errors, before the minutes were printed off for the JOURNAL, were confirmed.

The following matters arising out of the minutes were considered:—

(*a*) *Resolution re Sir Sydney Olivier.*

The following letter was read by the Secretary:—

21st January, 1913.

I beg to acknowledge the Receipt of your letter of the 16th instant, forwarding three Resolutions adopted at the Half-Yearly meeting of the Jamaica Agricultural Society held on that date and to say that I have submitted these to His Excellency Sir Sydney Olivier, who desired me to express through you his thanks to the Jamaica Agricultural Society for the kind expressions contained in them.—(Sgd.) G. PEACOCK, Private Secretary.

Free Railway carriage for Lime.

Mr. Conrad Watson moved the following motion, notice of which he had given at the last meeting:—

That this Board ask the Government to make the same concessions to other industries as was made to the banana industry; that lime for use as

an Insecticide or Fungicide, be conveyed by the railway free of charge, and that this concession should cover all Insecticides and Fungicides.

Mr. Stedman seconded.

After discussion the resolution was adopted, and the Secretary directed to forward the resolution to the Colonial Secretary.

1. Grants for Seeds.

Letter from the C.S.O. as follows :—

No. 1357-1525. 31st January, 1913.

I am directed by the Acting Governor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 5613 dated the 25th instant, and to say that His Excellency has sanctioned a further grant of £50 being made to your Society for the purpose of providing further supplies of seeds such as peas and beans, and to a small extent yam heads, for distribution in the western parishes.—(Sgd.) ROBT. JOHNSTONE, Acting Colonial Secretary.

In reply to Sir John Pringle, the Secretary stated that this sum made a total of £300 granted for the supply of seeds since the hurricane. The grants made for the supply of seeds and plants in the drought-stricken districts amounted to £200. He had reserved £24 out of the latter to supply seed corn in the season, and this he was now sending out. This made a total of £500 granted for the distribution of seeds and plants. The Acting Colonial Secretary had also sent him a copy of a letter from the Secretary of the Board of Supervision, calling attention to the scarcity of peas, beans and corn in the Santa Cruz district for planting, but he had already arranged with the local Branch Society to send supplies there, and with the Supervising Instructor to go down and organise the distribution. Mr. Arnett had done this, and also visited Southern St. Elizabeth and Southern Manchester along with the local Instructor, and reported on agricultural conditions there.

The Chairman asked whether the amount granted would be sufficient. When he visited Westmoreland lately, he found that some of the first growth from the seeds supplied had been destroyed by caterpillars, and that there was a demand for cassava sticks which could not be had there.

The Secretary stated that he had sent out, and was sending out, fresh supplies of seeds to the western parishes. Cassava sticks were scarce everywhere, and could not be had conveniently for supply to the west end.

Distress in Southern St. Elizabeth.

The Secretary read the following letter from the C.S.O :

No. 868-1055. 20th January, 1913.

I am directed by the Acting Governor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 5381 of the 17th instant, relative to the alleged causes of death from starvation in Southern St. Elizabeth and to inform you that the Board of Supervision have been communicated with in the matter.

2. I am also to express His Excellency's regret at the tenor of the concluding portion of your letter.

3. I am, however, to point out that under Section 30 of Law 6 of 1886, it is the duty of the Parochial Board to grant the necessary relief to keep from starvation, people who are unable to work, and that if the funds of the Parochial Board become exhausted in doing so it is open to them to

approach the Government for aid in the matter and the Parochial Board of St. Elizabeth have been so informed.—(Sgd.) ROBT. JOHNSTONE, Acting Colonial Secretary.

Mr. Muirhead and Mr. Martin asked if anything had been done about the independent enquiry asked for at the last meeting, and also about the Toll Gate matter.

The Chairman said that both had been referred to the Board of Supervision, and an enquiry had been instituted.

The Secretary also read a resolution from the Southfield Branch as follows :—

Whereas Praedial Larceny has reached a stage that cultivators in Southern St. Elizabeth have either to abandon their fields altogether, or be satisfied to continually plant for thieves to take everything planted, and that as the bulk of stealing is done by children, between the ages of four and fourteen years who destroy fields of young provisions because, (a) a famine prevails, (b) most of them are without parental care, (c) the authorities in our opinion, up to the present have not adopted proper remedial measures in dealing with the distress. Be it resolved, That the Government and the Parochial Board of the Parish be respectfully asked to provide at an early date Industrial Schools to which these Juvenile offenders could be sent for a period of years and be trained to become honest workers ; and that copies of this resolution with a letter giving explanation be forwarded to the Secretary of the Jamaica Agricultural Society for transmission to the Colonial Secretary and the Hon. J. M. Farquharson, chairman of the Parochial Board.

The Secretary was instructed to forward this to the Colonial Secretary.

Mr. Martin said the local Instructor in Southern St. Elizabeth had been pressed into service as a distributor of food supplies in that district for a long time now. He was of opinion that this interfered too much with his work as Instructor, and that he should be instructed to withdraw from this kind of work now. This was agreed to, and the Secretary directed to instruct Mr. Smith accordingly.

The following further letters from the C.S.O. were submitted :

(a) No. 2018-2455. 17th February, 1913.

I am directed by the Acting Governor to transmit herewith an extract from a report from the Secretary of the Board of Supervision, suggesting that the Jamaica Agricultural Society should encourage the cultivation of Sisal Hemp and the teaching of basket making in the Parish of Manchester, and to say that His Excellency would be glad if your Society would give these suggestions your attention.

(Sgd). R. C. M. WORTLEY, Ag. Asst. Colonial Secretary.

Office of the Board of Supervision, Jamaica.

No. 1291. 14th February, 1913.

19. Sisal Hemp has taken hold of this district and its cultivation might be encouraged through the Agricultural Society, as the people have learned how to make excellent rope with it by a simple manual process.

20. The Revd. Robert Johnston offers facilities for basket making and hat making if expert instructors can be provided by the Agricultural Society to teach the people. There is, I understand, a call for these articles from abroad.—(Sgd.) F. N. ISAACS, Secretary.

The Secretary said, that two years ago on a return from a visit to St. Elizabeth he had tabled at the Board meeting, samples of rope from Koratoe fibre, and suggested that the making of it at home might be encouraged as an industry in the dry districts, and so do double duty in providing some work and supplant the use of so much rope made from mahoe bark, the taking of which killed valuable timber trees. Nothing, however, was done. It would not be wise for the small settler to grow such a plant as sisal hemp on their lands, which they complained were already too limited; these should be kept for food crops.

As regards hat-making, hat-making classes had already been held in South Manchester, but the making of jippi-jappa hats could not be made profitable where the straw was not grown, and it required a wet district for its growth. Basket-making was already carried on in central St. Elizabeth, but the supply there could more than meet the demand that existed at present.

Mr. Martin said that there was plenty of land that would grow sisal, not being much good for anything else, the Goverment had hundreds of acres of such lands lying idle, and an attempt might be made for it being utilized for Sisal.

The Director of Agriculture said that if anything was done, the variety of Sisal called Henequen would be better to be grown than the true Sisal which usually poled too quickly. Plants of Henequen had been introduced and propagated at Hope Gardens, most of them were sent out and planted at Hodges Estate in Southern St. Elizabeth.

The Chairman suggested that a special committee might be appointed to go into the whole matter of agriculture in the dry districts and see whether any new industries suitable for them could be introduced.

The following committee was appointed :—Hon. H. T. Ronaldson, Messrs. Conrad Watson, A. C. L. Martin, E. W. Muirhead, and the Rev. Robert Johnstone, with power to add to their number.

Entire Horse Law. Mr. Craig moved the following resolution, copies of which had already been sent to the Live Stock Committee :—

Resolved that whereas Law 36 of 1908—the Entire Horse Tax Law—in no way tends to conserve or to improve our Island breeds of horsekind; is a totally different measure from that suggested by this Society to the Government, prior to its being passed into Law, is useless as regards this Society's objects, and is a source of discontent and annoyance to owners of entire horses, therefore in the opinion of the Jamaica Agricultural Society, the said Law ought to be repealed and a law substituted prohibiting the use as Sires of any Stallion suffering from hereditary disease or lacking in quality or approved type or form, and that such new law should contain provisions for the Veterinary Examination, Registration and the granting of a License to serve, of all Stallions certified sound and of good conformation, as well as for the castration of diseased and unsuitable animals, likely or certain to produce diseased and inferior progeny.

That this resolution be referred to the Live Stock Committee, (with the power to add to its number,) to consider this subject in all its aspects,

and with instructions to obtain the assistance of breeders and experts by inviting them to give opinions and experiences, and thereafter to draft such a measure, which if passed into law, would, in the Committee's opinion, do what can be done to prevent further deterioration, and to bring about improvement in our Island breeds of horsekind.

Speaking on the subject, Mr. Craig said : This is a fairly comprehensive resolution, and I do not think it necessary for me to support it with a speech of any length, as it explains itself without that. There are in the October JOURNAL of the Society several papers on horse-breeding, which possibly members of this Board have read. My proposal is founded on these, and the importance of the subject will not, I think, be denied. It has long been a question of national concern in France. Great Britain is approaching it in several ways. New Zealand's Department of Agriculture is considering it, as also are many other countries. I do not suggest it is quite a simple one, there are difficulties of detail which must be faced and very carefully thought out, before any law could be made workable ; but I do not think these difficulties are insuperable or that any injustice would be done to any one if it is admitted that the question is one of public concern, not merely of private interest, and there is no hardship in preventing the deliberate breeding of unsound stock transmitting hereditary disease, as is now permitted in Jamaica without any restrictions whatever.

I am not in the least anxious to have this resolution passed today as it stands. I do not wish to commit anyone to its proposals or to the statements it contains. All I ask is that the second portion of it be adopted, in order that the Live Stock Committee may thresh out the subject and report on it as early as is possible. If this suggestion is agreed to, I would further ask that the following members be added to the Live Stock Committee for this special work, viz., Mr. Cousins, Mr. Simmonds, and Mr. Douet, also that if a day be fixed on which to take evidence from breeders and experts, that the secretary advertise the same and request the help of the newspapers in inviting their opinions and experiences.

Mr. Martin, in seconding the motion, said it was very desirable that the present Entire Horses Law should be either amended or abolished, for as it stood, beyond being a taxation measure, it served no purpose at all.

The Resolution was unanimously carried.

Letters from the C.S.O. were submitted as follows ;—

(*a*) *Duty on Citrus Fruit.*

No. 1466-1056. 3rd February 1913.

I am directed by the Acting Governor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 5382 dated the 17th Ultimo, transmitting inter alia, a copy of a resolution passed at the half yearly meeting of the Jamaica Agricultural Society on the 16th Idem, soliciting the interest of the Government in behalf of the Citrus Fruit Trade of the island and requesting that in case an opportunity occurs by any revision of the Tariff of the United States of America the Government should try to secure the abolition or reduction of the present high duty on Citrus Fruits.

2. His Excellency directs me to say in reply that the matter has not been lost sight of, and will be considered again whenever an opportunity offers.—(Sgd,) C. M. WORTLEY, Actg. Colonial Secretary.

Mr. Stedman asked the Chairman whether he would say if the Government had done anything in the matter, and if so, if it was not too late to have any effect, seeing that the Commission in the United States had already closed its work.

The Chairman replied that representation had been made to the Secretary of State for the Colonies. That is all he could say.

(*b*) *Cauto Cotton.*

No. 1728 2165. 10th February, 1913.

I am directed by the Acting Governor to transmit herewith for your information a copy of a letter which has been received from the British Consul at Santiago de Cuba and to ask you to be so good as to give as much information as you can to the Messrs. Wheeler to assist them in their desire to grow cotton in Jamaica. (Mr, Canfield did not come.)—(Sgd.) ROBT. JOHNSTONE, Actg. Colonial Secretary.

Letter from British Consul, Santiago de Cuba,

7th February, 1913.

The Colonial Secretary, Kingston, Ja,

I have taken the liberty of giving this letter of introduction in favour of the bearers, Messrs. Wm. W. and F, L. Wheeler and Mr. G. N. Canfield, as I consider that the business that takes them to Jamaica may turn out to the great benefit of the country.

The repeated outbreaks in this island, and the little certainty there exists of their ceasing, are the motives for these gentlemen not settling down here as the trials they have made here have given excellent results and the difficulty only exists in the inducing capitalists to go into the business in view of the disturbed state of the country.

They will explain personally to you their intentions and I have assured them that they will always be able to count on the moral support of the Government when they intend working for the good of the country.—

(Sgd.) W. MASON, Consul.

The Secretary said the persons named had called on him and on the Director of Agriculture, to whom they had submitted a scheme for the offer of £5 in prizes of growing this new tree cotton in school gardens or otherwise. They would supply the seed and pay one penny per lb. for the seed cotton grown, which must be sold to them. It was stipulated that the seed introduced must be sent to the Director of Agriculture, and be treated against the introduction of disease.

Mr. Conrad Watson protested against seed being brought from Cuba, where the boll weevil, a dangerous pest to cotton, was common. They should do nothing at all which might have the remotest chance of injuring the prospects of the Sea Island Cotton industry here, which was now promising.

The Director of Agriculture said that the seed would only be brought into the island under special precautions. It was claimed by the promoters that this cotton would give three or four times the yield of Sea Island Cotton, that the plant was not affected by drought, and it would probably suit small settlers to grow here.

The Chairman said that while nothing should be done to endanger the present cotton industry, it seemed to him that, granted all proper precautions were taken, they should not block opportunity of trying what might prove to be a valuable addition.

Mr. Watson moved that the proposal of the Cauto Cotton Co. be not entertained. Mr. Muirhead seconded, and this was carried.

(c) *Incompetent Drivers of Vehicles.*

No, 1240-1209. 28th January 1913,

"I am directed by the Acting Governor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 17th instant, stating, *inter alia*, that it is the opinion of your Society that the necessity has arisen for legislation being enacted to prevent incompetent youths from driving drays and other loaded vehicles on public roads and that the Government should be asked to frame the necessary law to prevent this.

2. I am in reply to invite the attention of your Society to the letter from this Office No. 14605/15706 dated the 9th ultimo, in which was conveyed the decision of the Governor in Privy Council in the matter—Sgd. C. M. WORTLEY, Ag. Asst. Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary was asked to read the previous letter referred to, which he did.

Some members thought this matter had been turned down without receiving the consideration it deserved, and gave personal experience of the dangers incurred through small boys being allowed to drive drays.

It was also mentioned that the regulations for motor cars should be stricter, as many did not sound their horns when turning corners or when overtaking other vehicles.

The Chairman said that the difficulty was not in making laws, but in getting them carried out all over the country with the number of police they had. Then, again, people did not prosecute when they should do so.

(d) *Re Construction of Buildings.*

No. 883-17798/12 21st of January, 1913,

"I was directed by the Governor to invite your attention to Mr. D'Aeth's Memorandum on the construction of buildings with the view to enabling them to better resist the force of the wind, which was published in the *Gazette* Supplement of the 20th Ultimo and a copy of which was circulated that week with each copy of the Gleaner and Weekly Times newspapers, and to suggest that the Agricultural Instructors might be asked to bring it to the notice of the peasantry and perhaps to supervise here and there the erection of some cottages on the lines described.—(Sgd.) C. M. WORTLEY, Ag. Asst. Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary said he had got copies and sent them out to the Instructors as suggested.

The Chairman suggested that a copy of the Memorandum should be sent to the secretaries of branch societies to be read at their meetings. This was agreed to, and the Secretary instructed accordingly.

(e) Re The Contagious Diseases Animals (Inland) Law 1909.

No. 2047-2443. 17th February, 1913.

With reference to your letter No. 4936 dated the 11th December 1912, I am directed by the Acting Governor to transmit herewith a copy of a bill entitled a Law Further to Amend Law 1 of 1909 Entitled "The Contagious Diseases Animals (Inland) Law, 1909," and to say that His Excellency will be glad to receive the observations of the Jamaica Agricultural Society thereon at an early date.—(Sgd.) C. M. WORTLEY, Ag. Asst. Colonial Secretary.

A Bill entitled A Law Further to Amend Law 1 of 1909 entitled "The Contagious Diseases Animals (Inland) Law, 1909"

Be it enacted by the Governor and Legislative Council of Jamaica as follows :

1. This Law may be cited as the Contagious Diseases Animals (Inland) Law 1913 and shall be read as one with Law 1 of 1909 (hereinafter called the Principal Law) and Law 21 of 1910.

2. In section 2 (2) of the Principal Law for the words "contiguous to lands in his own occupation" shall be substituted the words "in his own neighbourhood."

3. The words "on being satisfied that disease exists in any parish in this Island" in section 3 of the Principal Law are hereby repealed and for the words "such parish" in the same section shall be substituted the words "each parish in this Island"

4. (1) It shall be lawful for the Commissioners to issue Regulations providing for the disposal by burying, burning or otherwise of the carcasses of animals which have not died from disease and any person contravening any of the provisions of such regulations shall be liable on conviction before a Resident Magistrate or two Justices of the Peace to a fine not exceeding Five Pounds and in default of payment to imprisonment with or without hard labour for any period not exceeding one month.

2. No prosecution shall be commenced against any person for a breach of the regulations issued under this section without the written consent being first had and obtained of one of the Commissioners.

This matter was referred to the Live Stock Committee.

(f) Agricultural Loan Societies Board.

No. 778-18374 18th January 1913

Forwarding a copy of letter to the Chairman of the Agricultural Loan Societies Board as follows :—

No. 777-18374. 18th January 1913,

With reference to your undated minute received at this Office on the 17th ultimo having regard to Mr. J. T. Palache's application for a further imprest for travelling expenses in connection with his visits to places to start Agricultural Loan Societies on account of the recent hurricane, I am directed by the Governor to inform you that His Excellency approves of your suggestion that as Mr. Palache is an officer of the Jamaica Agricultural Society all payments made by him in connection with this special work should pass through their hands and that they should satisfy the Government that the money advanced for the purpose has been properly and judiciously expended before any further advance is made.

2. A copy of this letter is being sent to the Agricultural Society, with the request that they will be so good as to see that this is done in respect to the imprest of £20 already made to Mr Palache and also of any further advances which may be made to him for the purpose.

3. The issue of this letter has. I regret been delayed by accident.—(Sgd.) ROBT. JOHNSTONE, Asst. Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary said he had informed Mr. Palache of this, and stated he would lay the matter before the Board first before doing as was requested.

It was resolved that as Mr. Palache had been seconded for this special work, and was for the time under the Loan Board, they should be responsible for the checking of Mr. Palache's travelling expenses. The Secretary was instructed accordingly.

Loan Banks. The Secretary submitted resolution from the Hanover Branch, which he was asked to bring to the attention of the Board and forward to the Colonial Secretary, with regard to the conditions of Law 36 of 1912, and the delay in the loans being available.

He stated that on the same subject he had a large number of letters from branch societies in connection with which Loan Banks had been established.

Mr. Craig asked for a ruling from the Chair, as to whether it was competent for the Board to discuss the matter of Loan Banks at that stage. A special Board had been appointed under the Law to deal with Loan Banks, and this Board took no responsibility in this matter.

The Chairman said that he could not rule that the matter could not be discussed, although it might only remotely concern this Society.

Mr. Craig then moved that the letter lie on the table.

It was decided, however, to consider the matters submitted.

After discussion at length on the position of matters at present in connection with Loan Banks, during which Mr. A. W. Douet announced that as a member of the Agricultural Society's Loan Board he could say that loans had been passed to the extent of £17,000, it was decided to instruct the Secretary to send the letter and resolution of the Hanover Branch to the Government.

Authorized Persons. The Secretary submitted the usual quarterly return from the Inspector General, showing the number of arrests made by authorized persons.

This is published on another page.]

The Secretary also stated that he had received a fresh copy of a revised list of authorized persons in nine parishes. The lists were posted up at the office for reference.

The Secretary submitted an application from D. A. Tucker, Garredu, Falmouth, asking that N. B. Nathan of Gravesend, who was a retired constable, be appointed an authorized person. The Secretary was instructed to forward this to the Inspector-General for the usual enquiry to be made.

Instructors and School Gardens. The Secretary said that a special sub-committee of the Instructors' Committee had met the previous afternoon to discuss with the Director of Education the matter referred to them, the relationship of Agricultural Instructors to School Gardens in the future, and a full report was made to the Instructors' Committee which had met that morning, approved of it and referred it to the Board for confirmation

(The Sub-Committee appointed by the Instructors Committee to deal with the question with relation to Agricultural Instructors, to School Gardens met yesterday (Wednesday, 19th inst., at 4 o'clock.)

Present :—Hon. J. R. Williams, Hon. D. Campbell, Mr. R. Craig and John Barclay, Secy.

The Committee Revised Rule 14, and beg to report as follows :—

1. That Rule 14 should read :—The Agricultural Instructors are expected to cooperate with the Educational Department to secure the efficiency of School Gardens. to visit the School Gardens in their Districts, and to advise the Teacher in his practical work of cultivating crops, in drainage, mulching etc. and as to the general working of the garden and the care of plants.
2. That they considered the matter of asking for the transfer of the grant made to the Instructor for School Gardens in order to remunerate the various Agricultural Instructors, pro rata according to the number of School Gardens in the District, but resolved at present they would not recommend this.
3. That Mr. Williams submitted a draft letter proposed to be sent to the Instructors containing full information as to the arrangements of the Education Department and the Teachers in connection with School Gardens for their guidance ; which after some revision was approved.

Approved and adopted by the Instructors Committee,

H. H. Cousins, Chairman.

20/2/3.

The Secretary said that it was not proposed to fill the position of Instructor for School Gardens made vacant by the appointment of Mr. Murray to the position of Master of the Farm School, but that the Agricultural Instructors should do what was necessary as had long been thought preferable.

The Director of Agriculture moved the adoption of the report. Mr. Williams seconded, and it was unanimously adopted.

Competitions in School Gardens. The Secretary said he had expected to be able to lay before the Board the awards in the *Cotton-Growing Competition in School Gardens* for which this Society had offered prizes, but the Instructor's reports on them had not all come in yet. As this competition had proved interesting, useful, and successful, although got up rather hurriedly; and interfered with by the drought and storm, he thought they should now, to be in good time, consider the question of again offering prizes for a cotton-growing competition, and he would suggest also for a seed corn competition in School Gardens, planting to be in August and September. This matter was left to the Director of Education and the Secretary to confer and report.

Prize Holdings Competition. The Secretary said there had been a proposal to take Instructural Districts instead of Parishes for the next competition, but in working the scheme out on this basis he found that while it would suit some districts it would not suit in the other parts, and would not suit the competition as a whole. He thought they might go on as they had been doing, and take parishes next year, and meanwhile consider if they could in any way make some improvements in the scheme. This was agreed to.

Insructors' Committee. The Secretary submitted a report from the Instructors' Committee, embodying the report of the Selection Committee appointed to examine the selected applicants for the vacant Instructorship at Hope on Friday the 24th of January 1913. The paper made recommendations as follows :

To re-appoint Mr. Arnett as instructor for St. Ann and Upper Trelawny in place of Mr. Levy who had resigned, at the same salary of £400 a year. Dispense with the appointment of a Travelling Supervisor of Instructors in the meantime, and recommend that the Secretary, Mr. Barclay, be entrusted with the very important duties of the Supervisor as regards checking the work of Instructors and visiting the Branch Societies, and that arrangements be made for him to travel for one week in each month on these duties that an increase of £100 to the allowance for office travelling be provided for this purpose from the saving of £500 for a Supervisor. That as it would be quite out of the question to impose this arduous and time-consuming work on Mr. Barclay, the staff of the Head Office should be strengthened, that as they were very favourably impressed with the qualifications of Mr. C. J. Bunbury, one of the applicants for Instructorship, for this post they recommend the appointment of this gentleman as Assistant Secretary, at a salary of £200 a year to be increased to £250 after six months probation and a favourable report on his work during that period. These immediate proposals indicated a saving of £150 a year when Mr. Bunbury is raised to his maximum of £250 and the Selection Committee is unanimous in recommending them for adoption by the Instructors Committee for approval of the Board of Management, not only as calculated to promote the efficiency of the work of the Agricultural Instructors but to remedy some obvious defects in the present arrangements.

After discussion, in which Mr. Martin and Mr. Muirhead questioned the advisability of dispensing with the post of Supervisor of Instructors, while considering it necessary that the Secretary should travel and visit the Branches, the report was adopted on the motion of Sir John Pringle, seconded by Mr. Williams.

Mr. Muirhead asked that his objection to the abolition of the post of Supervising Instructor be recorded.

Shows. The Secretary said a letter had been sent to him suggesting that a Show or Exhibition of our agricultural products and stock should be held at Knutsford Park on the occasion of the visit of Prince Albert. He had laid the matter before the Show Committee and the Permanent Exhibition Committee, but the general opinion was that it would not be advisable, because it took six months to get up a representative show, and the country was not in a condition at present to do us justice ; and for other reasons. Agreed.

The following applications for affiliation were submitted from new local societies :—

(n) Ramble (Hanover), (b) Marlborough (St. Mary), (c) Chesterfield (St. Mary) (d) Waterloo (St. Catherine), (e) Reach (Portland.

The conditions governing affiliation having been complied with, affiliation was granted.

New Members. The following new members were elected :— H. Edwards, Esq., Spanish Town ; Dr. Saint Cyr, Consul General Haiti, Kingston.

Statement of Account was tabled.

The meeting adjourned to Thursday 20th March, 1913, at 11.40 a.m.

MILCH GOATS.

Goats' milk would be invaluable to the great numbers of infants and children in the country and towns who are "raised" on condensed milk or starchy paps, both of which may lay the foundation of digestive troubles and poor physique. Not that condensed milk, if of whole milk, while not a complete substitute for mother's milk, is not a fairly good food for children if properly served, but it is most often used by guess work, either too rich or too weak. Some of the best known patent infant foods (we shall not name any and give free advertisements) are also good substitutes for milk, but are too dear for the majority of families here to use. But the humble goat, tied in the bush, and fed also on a few kitchen vegetable scraps, if only properly cared for, shifted frequently, instead of being tied out in the morning and forgotten, and if gently handled, could be made a most profitable and useful animal. Why should there be such good milch goats in Switzerland, France, Italy, Malta, and such poor goats in Jamaica where there is no winter, and better feeding than in most countries? It is simply a matter of care and attention. We have known some small settlers to have good milch goats, where several generations of animals had been well fed, carefully handled, and the nannies milked quietly and regularly.

East Indians have nearly always better goats than their creole neighbours, and often have very good milkers indeed. But they are people whose forebears have for countless generations been breeders of stock, tender with animals, especially those that give milk. And they are an economical and thrifty people, and find that goats' milk is cheaper and better than tinned milk. And they are patient and do not mind taking trouble. No good thing can be achieved without taking trouble. Yet, after all, the trouble involved in caring for a few goats well, is not much. Imagine the advantage it would be to thousands of families who at present do without that article of diet, indispensable to the welfare of children,

natural milk, if a quart of goats' milk could be relied on every morning of the year. And it could easily be arranged to have three to four good milking nannies bred to drop every quarter. Better results can be gained from a few goats tethered and tended, than from a lot running free. It is not a great yield for a nanny goat to give a quart of milk in the morning, but generally that would be worth at least sixpence to a family in a town, and about fourpence in value to those in the country. Half as much in a week as many a labouring man earns in five days.

☞To achieve results like this, the following rules should be noted and carried out. Supposing you begin with an ordinaay good young nanny.

1. Put a good strong collar on her and a good rope.

2. Tether her on good feeding.

3. Shift her to fresh feeding at least three times a day.

4. Do not breed her until she looks matured, and that is not earlier than a year old.

5. If you carefully tether your goat or goats, warn any neighbours who allow theirs to stray on your lands. that you will shoot them. And after three warnings if they are still deliberately allowed to stray, shoot.

6. Bring in the goat to the yard every evening—better to put up a little thatch house for her—give her a few handfuls of extra feeding. The manure saved is worth threepence a week at least, from one goat.

7. After she has been bred, work her udder gently, and accustom her to the action of milking.

8. When the kids (or kid) are born, still continue to handle the nanny gently, working her udder.

9. Teach the kids to eat from the hand soon ; they readily follow the mother in this at a fortnight old, and will eat a little meal.

10, At a month old put collars on the kids and tether them too, to prevent them straying. Let them suck when you or your family shift the mother.

11. Train your boys and girls to look after the goats, and promise them a kid each to interest them ; and fulfil your promise.

12. Separate the kids at five or six weeks old from the nanny every night, and milk her every morning. If the nanny is a well bred goat, she will give more from their birth than the kids can take, and she should be relieved of the extra milk all along.

12. Like hand-reared calves, it will usually be found that those kids deprived of sucking when they like, will eat more grass and bush ; and the nanny if always milked out, will secrete more milk for you to take in the morning.

14. If the nanny has only one kid and you want increase, put her again with the ram a month after dropping. If she has two kids do not put her back for six weeks ; if three kids, eight weeks.

If, however, you want milk as long as you can get it, do not put her back for three months.

15. Choose a well built ram, the son of as good a milker as you can find.

16. You can hasten the aim to have good milkers by purchasing goats with the blood of milch breeds, so long as the individual animal is healthy and well grown, or by getting the use of a ram of such blood.

17. But it is ot no use thinking that you can secure milkers by simply getting such milch breeds and letting them run. There must be care and feed as well as breed.

18. Well cared for goats, kept in their places, are a blessing ; goats allowed to stray are a curse. Those who persistently permit goats to stray and cause loss and damage to crops should be fined. Goats will occasionally get away as cows or horses will, but that is different from their owners letting them run free all the time, knowing they must go on other people's places.

. . . . .

To show how good milch goats are in demand, we note from an agricultural paper in the United States that the quotation of prices for a ram and ewe, Toggenburg breed, full grown, and the ewe milking, was $350 (£75) for Toggenburg nanny with two she kids $200 (£40), for a Toggenburg nanny due to kid in the spring $150 (£30). These are much greater prices than prevail in England, where pedigree flocks of different breeds of milch goats are more common. There from £5 upward is the price of a good ram or ewe goat.

PIGS.

It is a good idea for Branch Societies to read some article from the JOURNAL at Branch Meetings, when there is no other important business, The JOURNAL isread over, but what is in it is often forgotten. We have had questions sent us over and over on matters that have been already dealt fully iu the JOURNAL, Much of what should be common knowledge now since the JOURNAL has been issued, for now fourteen years, is still not known. We take one instance that comes before us very often : there is a confusion about the different breed of pigs. between the China Pig and the Poland China. We wrote a special article on this in the JOURNAL for October, which we commend to Agricultural Instructors and Secretaries of Branch Societies. The China pig is the old fashioned short-legged, short-snout, round pig, never growing to a large size, maturing very early, being full grown at eight months ; and it is easily fed. The Poland China pig, on the contrary, is an American breed, growing to a large size : it is a long-bodied breed. Mr. F. L. Clark who was then at Richmond in St. Ann, imported two of this breed in 1901, and three years later the sow weighed over 700 lbs., being still an active breeder. The boar was butchered when

three years old, and weighed 507 lbs. A cross between these two breeds makes a useful and profitable kind of pig for the ordinary man's purpose. The Large Black pigs now kept at the Farm School at Hope ("Large Black" is the name of this breed) has characteristics of its own, different from the Poland China. Given good feeding, it will grow to a very large size, matures early, inclines to yield lean meat, if it gets the right kind of food. It is also a docile and good tempered pig. The China pig and the Poland China are different breeds entirely, having indeed entirely different characteristics.

BROOM CORN.

A Useful Hint for a New Industry.

When considering the subject of introducing new home industries to the drought-stricken districts, the plants to produce the materials for the manufacture of articles must be such as can be grown under dry conditions, This throws the making of jippi-jappa hats out of count for Southern St. Elizabeth and Southern Manchester. A variety of hemp, the common Koratoe, grows wild under the driest and rockiest conditions in these districts : and better varieties of hemp, such as Sisal and Henequen the kind of Sisal grown in Yucatan, and which yields more fibre than the true Sisal, can be introduced from other districts. The true Sisal is common in Vere. Henequen is grown at Hope Gardens, and there is a field of it at Hodges in St. Elizabeth, and some of it at Stony Hill, introduced direct from Mexico. From the fibre of that plant home-made rope could be made, which would sell well to the penkeepers and others as "head ropes," and supersede the use of mahoe bark rope, the gathering of the material for which ruins many valuable mahoe trees which yield the prettiest wood, in our opinion, that we have in Jamaica.

We have, since the year 1907, been writing about the growing of Broom Corn, the heads of which are used for making those nice brooms imported here from the United States, and sold at about 1/-2/

In the Journals of September, 1908, March 1909, and May 1910, we had short articles on the subject, and in addition many short paragraphs have appeared offering seed for trial at 3d per packet.

But little interest was taken in this. We have found Broom Corn to stand dry weather even better than Guinea Corn, and produce good heads. We consider the growing of Broom Corn on settlers own land to make brooms, the growing of Sisal on those Government lands now lying idle in St. Elizabeth with very poor, and in places rocky soil, the growing of cotton by settlers—all new crops these indeed, but tested and known to withstand the severest drought—the growing of the usual food crops, especially cassava, and the making of farine from it when it is plentiful, and storing it; sweet potatoes, yams, corn, and Guinea corn, under such cultral methods

as have been exemplified at Experimental Ground No. 1, would solve the problem of the great distress through drought. At the Experimental Ground, all through the drought when few food crops existed around, there were yams being dug, and bananas green as could be found in seasonable districts. And it was not that much money was spent on it; it was self-supporting last year in spite of drought and praedial larceny. Better for settlers to grow only *what they can mulch heavily, and so secure crops,* than attempt to grow so much that it can only be partly mulched, and that so thinly that it is hardly any good.

We have seed of Broom Corn on hand now; not a single packet has been *sold since we imported it in November last*; so if those teachers who have school gardens in dry districts write us, they can have a *packet free to try. Broom Corn is of the same family* as Guinea Corn (Sorghum) and the seeds are good for fowls, etc., and the leaves for stock For broom-making, however, the heads are taken when the heads are in bloom, just beginning to set into seed.

CORN

A great deal can be done here, and ought to be done, in improving the yields of corn. We have been urging this all along; firstly by using good seed, secondly, by good cultivation. But there is a great field also for improving the yields through careful breeding of the seed to suit certain conditions. For instance Prof. Bliffing of the Cambridge School of Agriculture, England, has discovered a variety of wheat, which, tested for two seasons on a farm under ordinary cultivation, showed a yield of 47 bushels against 28 bushels of the usual variety of wheat used in the same district, and what is more, the wheat suited the purposes of millers and bakers well.

There are Experimental Stations in the United States that are busy all the time in experimenting with corn (maize) to find varieties to suit different conditions of climate and soils, and which will have such vitality that they will yield more than the varieties ordinarily grown. Even in a small place like Jamaica, we have seasonable localities and we have some that are very dry, and the seed grown in the former is not perhaps the best to suit conditions in the latter. What we have always tried to do is to send seed to dry districts that has been grown under dry conditions. But we are not always able to arrange this. We need more experimental grounds to be devoted to seed plant breeding but as there is such a notion prevailing thate xperimental grounds ought to pay, any work that requires minute and prolonged test, cannot be indulged in. If, for instance, we were to try varieties of corn (maize) and guinea corn (sorghum) from various parts of the world, and engage in hybridising to find the best drought resisters, it is certain that this would take years of careful work and observation involving a good deal of outlay and such work could not immediately prove remunerative.

The probability is that half way through, there would be a cry for definite results and the work would be stopped.

A great deal can be done by careful growers in dry districts by selecting season after season those cobs of corn which are much superior to their neighbours growing under the same conditions.

Sometimes in a cornfield there are to be seen large and vigorous stalks bearing two, even three big cobs, but most often on examination it will be found that these stalks are growing where there was a heap of trash or where some wood had been burned, the manure accounting for the greater growth of the plant. Occasionally, not often, indeed, we consider it would be a prize, there is to be found a really strong stalk of corn bearing two fine cobs with nothing to favour its vigorous growth. How is this accounted for? Just how, now and then there is a thrifty animal among stock, which on the same fodder turns out much finer than any of the others. It is probably due to superior vitality in the seed corn planted.

Such cobs should be prized, carefully noted and the seed from them retained for planting. For several years we had a breed of this kind, all taken from an extraordinary cob obtained after three years watching of fields and the best seed from this was planted separately, and the seed carefully kept again. The keeping up of this variety on a larger scale than a little patch, when not able to give personal attention to the cultivation of the corn, was beyond us and to our great regret we lost the "Breed." This was a corn that was borne on a rather short, stout stalk, not a large cob but thick, and generally bearing two even cobs.

And then unfortunately not much interest was taken in seed corn or good seed of any kind. The awakening in this direction has only recently come, and while due much to this JOURNAL and Mr Palache, Agricultural Instructor and the intelligent, sometimes eager interest, school teachers now take in Agricultural matters, has also been forced upon us somewhat through the series of bad seasons we have had since 1907. We published an experience of this seed in the JOURNAL for 1901 and it is worth repeating to show what good seed can do. (No room in this Journal—ED.)

This year there has been no real selected seed corn available owing to the storm of November, and we have had to take what we could get. Those who are planting now should, when their corn is in the cob, go through their fields and watch carefully for the strongest growing stalks, and for the best cobs, and mark these. Please note however that the strongest growing stalk does not mean the tallest one; a tall growing a corn is a delusion when it comes to growing corn for grain, being too readily blown down. We mean the stoutest strongest stalks bearing two large cobs. Why should so many require to write to us each year for seeds when most are in a position to save their own seed corn, only on occasional years introducing some fresh seed.

Corn Stalks.

The true value of a crop of corn, whether it be country corn or guinea corn in the feeding of stock on the Estate has not been realised here.

When an acre of corn matures, and we reap the grain only, say 20 bushels, it is worth say in an ordinary year 3s. a bushel or £3 from which fall to be deducted the expenses say one third to one half. But the stalks are wasted as when ripe they are hard and not fit for feeding stock. But if the corn crop is taken when the grain in the cobs is in the glazing stage, and while the stalks and leaves are still green, as they are taken to make silage, there is a great gain, because the feeding value in the stalks is secured and nothing much lost in the grain. If cut and fed then to dairy stock, corn stalks are more palatable than any other food. The corn stalks can be kept over in the form of silage as is done so commonly now in the United States. Silage is only made at one place here, the Hope Stock Farm, and it is invaluable means of storing green feed for use between crops and in dry weather when green succulent feed, so necessary for milking cows and for mares carrying foals is scarce, hardly to be got at all at any price in turns. There the silage is stored in a specially built silo. But silage does not absolutely require a building ; it can be stored like hay in a stack, a common plan in Australia although there is more waste this way.

Apart from silos, a good practicable economical way of securing corn stalks for stock, such as dairy cows, mares, young horses to be pushed along and working stock, is to grow a series of paddocks of corn, planting every month in the year whenever rain allows. This cannot be done in all districts but in the average year it can be done in a good many places economically. In very dry districts guinea corn would enable this to be done when country corn would not succeed. And as the former ratoons and gives succeeding crops, we are inclined to believe that it is a more economical crop than country corn there.

But a field of corn taken in this stage can only be used for a few weeks whereas the corn grains can be stored.

... ...

Green corn stalks however possess more feeding value than Guinea corn as they are far more palatable to beasts. Succulence and palatability count a great deal in foods for stock. No matter what the food value may be if a large portion of the food for stock is not succulent and palatable it is not relished, and so is not a good ration.

Alcohol from Bananas.—Banana-meal from peeled unripe bananas is mashed with malt extract and then fermented with yeast, 100 kilograms of meal yielding 47.8 litres of alcohol. When mashing is carried out without malt-extract, the diastase naturally present in the meal being used, the yield of alcohol is considerably lower.

CASSAVA.

Despite the disappointments so far in cassava growing and the manufacture of cassava products on a large scale, still hope springs triumphant. There have been poor years for almost every crop the Island grows since 1907 ; cassava development has met these lean years.

Interest keeps up and we have enquiries regularly from abroad as to prospects for cassava growing and the manufacture of cassava products. We are at present sending away two lots of samples of dried cassava with and without the skins.

Then local growers are always asking if anything can be done to find markets for cassava other than in the form of starch. There are very large imports of dried cassava into the United Kingdom, large quantities coming from Singapore, but Malaya can grow cassava apparently cheaper than we can, perhaps because it has largely been grown as a catch crop through rubber trees in large plantations.

Here are fresh quotations from England which will be of interest.

No. 1.	Grated Skin & all	4/6 to 4/9	per	Cwt.
,, 2.	,, without Skin	4/9 ,, 5/	,,	,,
,, 3.	,, pure Starch	11/ ,, 11/6	,,	,,
,, 4.	,, Refuse after removal of starch	5/ ,, 5/3	,,	,,
A.	Chipped & Sun dried skin & all	4/6	,,	,,
B.	,, ,, ,, ,, peeled			

THE ARROWROOT INDUSTRY IN JAMAICA.

(Being a Paper Read Before The Lamb's River Branch)

As the subject of Agriculture become more and more developed, there are various side products which are taken up, not only for the purpose of experiment, but for the utility found in them. Arrowroot may well find a place among such products, which may be cultivated at a profit.

There are comparatively few countries in the world in which this industry is carried out, on a large scale. According to the latest information, it is cultivated in Bermuda, East and West Indies, Natal in South Africa and Queensland in Australia. The chief source of arrowroot however is the Island of St. Vincent. According to the time and limits of this paper, I shall direct attention to the cultivation in Jamaica, with the hope that some useful purpose may be served by this industry. And so as to have a general outline of the subject, I shall begin with the preparation of the soil for planting arrow-root.

1. The same processes gone through in the planting of Ginger should be adopted. These being familiar to most people here, I shall not attempt to outline ; but pass on to the selecting of the tubers for planting. It is absolutely necessary always to select healthy plants in the propagation of any crop, and arrow-root is no exception to this general law. The tubers with rounded ends are

preferable to those which taper to a point. Having selected the plants, and the soil being prepared, we set them out in drills of 2 to 3 feet apart, and 2 feet apart in the rows ; the drills being 6 inches deep. During the early stage of growth the ground should be kept free of weeds. If the preparation of the land be thorough, the crop needs only two weedings ; thereafter the plants offer great resistence to weeds, that would do harm. The crop matures, under favourable conditions, in about 10 months. In these parts of the Island the planting is done in February and March, and harvested in November and December. The time for harvesting is known by the stalks becoming faded. If the crop is gathered before the starch is all developed from the leaves, the return will be poor both in quantity and quality of the starch.

2. Having understood the stage at which the arrow-root is ready for harvest, the next work is the digging, or gathering of the tubers. This is done by the aid of the fork. After the digging is gone through, then comes the separation of the plants from those to be made into starch. As a rule the smaller and healthy tubers are generally reserved for future planting.

3. Unlike ginger the peeling may be done without the use of a knife throughout, except the paring of the ends.

4. Next comes the grinding at the mill, which seems one of the most interesting processes in the entire manufacture of the starch.

The mill is constructed after the manner of a coffee pulper, The tubers are put into a trough, so constructed that they are gradually being passed onwards to a revolving grater, which grinds them, and the pulp passes into a long shoot, the bottom of which is practically a long sieve, being constructed of fine wire meshes. As the pulp passes along with running water, the starch or arrow-root is gradually falling through this sieve on to a sloping wooden shoot below whereby it is gradually run off into barrels and allowed to settle. As the starch settles, the dirty water is drained off, and fresh, clean water is poured on, and the arrow-root is again stirred up, and strained through calico sheets. This process may be repeated, so as to have the starch freed from any trash that might have found its way in during the washing. The water used in washing should be scrupulously clean, as it is impossible to separate dirt from the starch after it has once found an entrance therein. When the settling is done the water is strained off, leaving the starch at the bottom of the barrel. The upper layer of starch in the barrel is not of so good a quality as the lower and is commonly known as the " starch head."

5. Our next point is the drying process. The starch is laid out on calico dryers in the sun-shine. It is very important that the first day's sun be very hot, so as to evaporate as much of the water as possible. When the weather bids fair, the drying is done in in about 4 days—provided the starch is spread very thinly on the calico dryer, and stirred frequently. The breeze also aids in the drying.

It may be interesting to note that about an 100 barrels, which amounts to about 9 tons of arrow-root are consumed in the various

public Institutions of the Island annually, such institutions being Hospitals, and the Penetentiary ; and further, during the last 5 years the district of Seaford Town was able to supply half of this amount. Unfortunately the crops since 1911, were rather small, and so the supply was not equal to the demand.

The following figures may be helpful in showing what may be raised if the arrow-root industry were taken up, and carried on systematically.

A cwt. of tubers will give say 20 lbs. of starch, which works out to about 15 cwt. to 300 lbs. starch, and this is the return from one square chain of land.

The starch is sold at varying prices according to the crop and the demand. This year the price was high, 25/ per 100 lb. This means *£3 15/ per square chain* or *£37 10* per acre. Even at much less the industry may be made to profit. Of course as may be seen, there is a very great amount of hand labour involved in the preparation of the starch.

The market is ruled by the price of St. Vincent arrow-root which is quoted now at 3¾d to 4d per lb.

With a small central factory, the work might be done to greater advantage with less hand labour.

We live in an advancing age of keen competition, and if we hope to achieve any degree of success, we must be prepared to do our best to outstrip our competitors. No man knows everything about anytbing, but with perseverance, systematic method of working, and aspiration in our work, we may hope for success to attend our efforts, though our opportunities may be few, and our endeavours considered weak,

U. L. BROWN,
(Secy. Lamb's River Branch)

.. ..

Some years ago most of the arrowroot used in the Public Institutions was imported from the Island of St. Vincent.

We thought this an anomaly when arrowroot growing was a specialty in the Lamb's River District of Westmoreland in Hanover and growers there found it difficult to dispose of all they could grow on their lands. These growers were mostly the descendents of German settlers at Seaford Town, Westmoreland where they have always kept up this particular industry on a small scale viz : the growing and preparation of arrowroot from the real plant, called here white arrowroot, which is botanically *Maranta Arundinacea*. There is another kind of arrowroot, often here called "black arrowroot" darker in colour but quite as good dietetically made from the Tous-les-moios (*Canna Edulis*) a larger and more vigorous plant than the other. Its darker colour, however, does not make this acceptable in the markets, although it is often preferred in the country home. After a good deal of correspondence with the Island Medical Office, through the Government, we got it arranged that only native arrowroot should be used in the Hospital any other

institutions when obtainable and we agreed to be the medium to secure the co-operation of growers so as to keep up a regular supply at a fair price. This price is fixed by the price of St. Vincent arrowroot *in the world's markets. We secured the cooperation of the* Lamb's River Branch and through them we have for years kept up steady supplies of arrowroot for the Public Institutions,—the Hospitals, Prison, Asylum etc.

It was fortunate for the Lambs River people that they had reretained their arrowroot for when the hurricane of November last happened, this being a low growing p'ant, escaped damage to any extent and being fit to reap, at the time we immediately arranged to take all of it we could get, as fast as the growers could prepare it. Fortunately too for the growers, the price was high, owing to drought in St. Vincent, and from the fact that growers there have cooperated to regulate the output, so that they may not have *to accept such ruinous prices as 1½d per lb. as they* have had to do in the past.

Since November we have paid the Secretary of the Lambs River Branch and the Agricultural Instructor there, the sum of £120 for arrowroot. This must have come doubly welcome to arrowroot growers at that time.

This is written not merely as a paragraph to call attention to what we have done, but in order to point a moral. First, the benefit of small settlers having crops of different nature, of an entirely different manner of growth, and for different markets too. And next that a great deal can be done in securing markets by cooperation, but it must be a real cooperation, in actual fact, not merely *on paper or in words. There is plenty of talk about cooperation,* but so little of it ever is embodied in deeds.

Bananas and cocoa are exportable crops of different nature. They grow amicably and naturally together, the one is a fruit, quick growing, always useful to have for export or for use at home. How much bananas bulk as food for human beings and for domestic animals is forcibly impressed upon us at present by the great scarcity of local food, and people cannot turn to green or ripe bananas as they usually do when yams are scarce. There is profit however in bananas and despite the storm small growers must stick to this crop, but not to the exclusion of all other crops. Cocoa is a valuable crop for export, is a godsend now to growers of bananas in most parishes where bananas were damaged or lost by drought or wind because in St. Andrew, St. Thomas, St. Catherine, St. Mary and Portland it is cheering to say there are fine crops of cocoa in sight now. But also a crop that is not liable to damage by the wind should be grown especially food crops. Corn and yams are good to have and something must always be risked. But "hedging" is a good policy *for the agriculturist especially in a tropical country. So that every* one should have those valuable foods tuffs, Cocoes (tanias) growing at all times, and also sweet potatoes, while in the uplands, crops of Irish potatoes should be grown regularly too.

AUTHORIZED PERSONS.

rn of Arrests made by "Authorized Persons," under the Praedial Larceny Law during the Quarter ended 31st December 1912.

Parish	Name of "Authorized person" who prosecuted.	Name of Defendant.	Offence for which prosecuted.	Result.
gston	Nil	Nil	Nil	
Andrew	,,	,,	,,	
Thomas	,,	,,	,,	
tland	Robt. Johnson	N. McFarlane	(Unlawful poss.)	6 w'ks H. L.
,,	Jas. Stewart	Hy. Walker	(of bananas.)	1 m'tn ,, ,,
,,	W. Beckford	Hez. Dorman	do. of pears	Discharged
Mary	Jos. Duncan	Ferd. Webb	,, ,, cocoa	To rising of
,,	Jos. Danvers	Chas. Wilson	,, ,, yams	the Court.
,,	Robt. Pollock	C. Kennedy	,, ,, bananas	26 w'ks H. L.
,,	Danl. Hughes	E. Ewell	,, ,, cocoanuts	Discharged.
,,	do.	Saml. Bell	,, ,, bananas	4 mtn's H. L.
,,	S. Pickersgill	P. Ashbourne	,, ,, pumpkin	2 ,, ,, ,,
,,	do.	M. Ashbourne	,, ,, ,,	Discharged.
,,	Robt. Johnson	Richd. Lewis	,, ,, bananas	,,
,,	Danl. Hughes	R. Shrine	,, ,, ,,	,,
,,	do.	R. Pearce	,, ,, ,,	1 day's Imp
. Ann	Nil	Nil	Nil	,, ,, ,,
relawny	Wilfred Castle	Sml. McGhie	,, ,, Produce.	Bound Over.
t. James	Nil	Nil	Nil	
lanover	,,	,,	,,	
Vestmoreland	,,	,,	,,	
t Elizabeth	Richd. Jones	H. Gordon	,, ,, produce	To rising of the Court.
lanchester	Thos. Tomlin	Jane James	,, ,, yams	For trial.
,,	J. Thompson	Alice Thomas	,, ,, pimento	Discharged.
,,	do.	Wm. Johnson	,, ,, yams	,,
,,	D. Madden	Alex. Brown	,, ,, ,,	,,
,,	J. Thompson	Jos. Golding	,, ,, ,,	,,
,,	do.	Caro. Smith	,, ,, ,,	,,
,,	,,	Robt. Hall	,, ,, ,,	,,
Clarendon	Richd. Brown	Julius Walters	,, ,, canes	6 strokes.
,,	Rueben Stone	F. McDonald	,, ,, yams	6 ,,
,,	do.	N. McDonald	,, ,, ,,	6 ,,
,,	,,	R. Thomas	,, ,, ,,	6 ,,
,,	,,	Alex. Sewell	,, ,, canes	Discharged
,,	Richd. Brown	Julius Walters	,, ,, bananas	6 strokes.
,,	Theo. Nelson	David Ashley	,, ,, canes	Discharged
St. Catherine	Nil	Nil	Nil	

Inspector General's Office,
Kingston, 20th January 1913.

A. E. KERSHAW,
Inspector General of Polic

STOCK NOTES.

BARB WIRE is cheap, but it is responsible for cuts, tears, lacerations, death of stock, and costly blemishes on horses.

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* *

YOUNG HORSES are nearly always broken here when too young. Commonly two year old colts are to be seen being ridden about, and even being driven. No wonder that most of our horses are considered old at eight. Three years is the earliest age a horse should be used, and better four, and if used at three, the work should be light and easy for a year. Broken at four, and not used hard until five, and the horse is good for hard work, with decent treatment, and barring accident, until sixteen.

*
* *

NEW CORN should not be used too freely for horses. When the crop of corn comes in, the tendency is to feed more of it, and often much illness result.

WHITE LOTION cannot be bettered for horses' hoofs in dry weather *when the roads are dry and hot. We have given the recipe* several times. It is cheap. Buy 1 ounce sulphate of zinc, and 1 ounce acetate (sugar) of lead ; put both into a quart bottle, fill up with water and shake when using. Wet a cloth with the lotion and rub on the coronet of the horse's hoofs.

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* *

HORSES have long coats now. See about clipping them. They sweat less and take cold less readily without the long hair.

* *
*

COWS' SKINS were not meant for breeding places for thousands of ticks. It has never been figured out, and perhaps cannot be, how many ticks it take to draw a quart of blood from a cow. But it takes feeding to make blood, and cows should not be kept to feed ticks.

*
* *

TICKS are the worst pest, and the second most costly pest (rats being first) we have in Jamaica. They are a curse to man and beast. They drive away tourists from us, as no visitor can leave the high road to walk in a field to see some object of interest or enjoy some view without having cause to remember his leaving the road.

There never was a time before when it was made so simple for veryone having cattle to deal with ticks. We advertise several ck killers : and there is Paranaph and Coopers Dip, supplied by the Government Laboratory, and now kept also by the hardware

stores. And spray pumps to spray the cattle are quick and effecttive and easy to use. Spray Pumps save money to everyone having even a few beasts, and are a necessity for those having many stock.

*
* *

GOATS are hardy, but still are subject to severe ailments. We have written about goats and their treatment in health and disease in the JOURNAL several times in past years, and we printed some of these articles in pamphlet form. Still, a constant reader writes that he has not noted how goats suffering from diarrhoea or scours should be treated, and as we have had several letters on the subject, we shall write about this in next JOURNAL, as there is enough about goats in this JOURNAL already.

*
* *

PIGS like to wallow in soft mud ; that is their way of washing themselves and so getting rid of parasites and itch of their skin. In the same way fowls take a dust bath, shaking the dust all through their feathers, then getting rid of it all with a final shake, when the insects in them are thrown off too. But the mud for the pig's bath must be clean mud, not a dirty puddle at all.

*
* *

It is hard to get rid of the idea that pigs can thrive knee deep in their own filth. The sour smell of some pens we see, and the filthy, sloppy mud in them, without a clean place, or dry place for the pig to lie, cannot allow of the animals being healthy, and certainly prevent them growing as they should. And it is so easy to keep throwing bedding in every day to keep the pig dry and comfortable, And all this bedding makes good manure.

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RABBITS.—Look around for fresh blood. Inbreeding is the bane of most stock breeding by small settlers here, and so their stock degenerate. We have received in the past a large number of letters asking why the young rabbits die off so much. The chief cause is weakly constitution through inbreeding. When the bucks are relatives to the does, clear the former out ; eat them or sell them, and get fresh blood in. Rabbits are handy to have for food as a change from fowl. And they make much manure, which should not be wasted. A bushel box of this in a yam hole, we remember an instance, made a 50lb. yam to grow when the surrounding yams without manure at all, made from 10 to 20 lbs. weight. And two bushel boxes of this manure to each of some roots of bananas, made each to produce large bunches where formerly they were rather poor. A bushel box of rabbit manure is certainly worth a penny to threepence. In the case of the yam mentioned it was worth far more.

POULTRY NOTES.

Last month we dealt with the setting of hens. Naturally chickens should follow. There is a great difference in results in some years compared with others ; and difference in results from different hens ; both due to the mothers (the hens that laid the eggs) and to the setters. Last year was a poor year generally for fertile eggs and we put it down largely to lack of green feeding. Setters too often did badly in the most erratic way. Three hens set at the same time on eggs taken at random, and all set near each other so that they all had the same conditions and with all the hens behaving well on the nest, not sticking too closely, not staying off too long, still gave variable results. One hatched 11 out of 13, one 4 out of 11, and another 4 out of 9. One Turkey hen hatched 16 out of 17 another set beside it, and 9 out of 16 but she behaved badly, leaving her nest at times and crowding in beside the other one.

To secure fertility of eggs the cocks have to be healthy and active and the hens so too.

When the chickens hatch if the hen is quiet and does not want to leave her nest because two or three chickens are half a day to a day before the others, let her alone. If she makes to step off with one or two chicks as sometimes happen, take the little ones away and put them in a box of cotton wool in a warm place ; but do not attempt to feed them. As soon as all the chickens are hatched put the others back. It is exceptional however for this to be necessary. When eggs are fresh they all hatch out within twelve hours and an ordinary hen will not leave the nest until she sees some of the chickens moving about, making to pick up.

Of all the feeds available here for starting off young chickens well, we have found none so useful as coarse Scotch oatmeal. Chickens do not require to begin feeding until they are at least twenty_four hours hatched, and then only if they are particularly strong and lively ; it is better they should not be fed until they are thirty six hours hatched and forty eight hours will not be too long. To attempt to get them to feed under twenty four hours old, means, if they pick up food, indigestion for them to start off with. If any eggs remain unhatched and in testing them, are found clear and good these can be boiled and crumbled very fine through the coarse oatmeal. Let the chickens have water as they please. Brown rice boiled so that every grain is clean not made sticky, can be alternated with the oatmeal. After a week if chickens are considered valuable and worth pushing on, small scraps of meat, fat and even gristle with the meat, can be cut very fine and given them. And ticks from the cows are a valuable food as they of course contain blood. If labourers are forking or hoeing land give one of them an empty salmon tin and ask him to pick up any worms he comes across and drop them in the tin. No food pushes on chickens like worms. Then after a forthnight the nest of duck ants may be sought for and a piece taken off for the chickens every day. Guinea corn if it

would only be extensively grown, would be one of the very best foods for fowls and chickens, as the grains are small enough to be fed to the latter. One of the difficulties in poultry rearing is to be able to feed a large number of chickens separately from the fowls; because the chickens want to be fed oftener than hens and their food is finer and more expensive, while it does them harm to pick up whole corn meant for hens. And it does not pay for the hens to be crowding in and taking the food meant for chickens while the latter go without. It always pays to have one or two fenced runs, where chickens can be kept and fed separately if necessary. Also this enables some of the best hens with a good cock to be kept apart to supply eggs for setting instead of taking these at random from a crowd of hens, sometimes from the poorest layers.

The coarse oatmeal can be dropped after a month as it is more costly than crushed corn which can be safely fed after that but should be alternated with a *little* brown rice (not white rice). The rice is better soaked first in water as it swells so much. Chickens should be fed four times a day, a little at a time, for the first month, then three times a day until they are grown. Plenty of clean water should always be provided.

Next month we shall write about the most common troubles that affect chickens, such as yaws, Indigestion, Roup.

Lice and Ticks.—A useful ointment for all kinds of Parasites on Poultry.

Lard,	4 tablespoonfuls.
Sulphur,	1 ,,
Kerosene	1 ,,

If a little of this is rubbed on the back of the head, the rump, and teneath the wings it will destroy all kinds of lice and ticks on fowls. Rubbed on the legs of fowls suffering from scaly legs it will cure this unsightly trouble.

Fowl Ticks :—Fowl ticks are an increasing pest, and when fowls are attacked by them for the first time, they are thrown into a high fever, in the same way as imported cows are, when tick bitten for the first time. But not only that, the fowl loses the power of its legs, as in cramp, and in bad cases also loses the power of its neck ; in fact the birds seem nearly paralyzed.

We sent specimens of the fowl ticks to Professor Nuttall, of Cambridge, England, some time ago, who reported that the ticks are *Argas persicus* the same as occur elsewhere and that he was not able to produce on fowls there the conditions described by us. It may be however, that the fowls he used had already been infected mildly.

We are still pursuing the subject.

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To cure an attack, as described, first kill the ticks on the fowl with the sulphur and lard paste ; give twice a day one twentieth of the ordinary dose of quinine, sold everywhere now for one farthing. Feed on bread soaked in milk. Rub the joints and the back at the junction of the neck, with a good embrocation.

COMMENTS.

NEW YEAR.—We reminded all our Branch Societies by Circular that by the rules, all financial years commenced on the 1st of April. Local subscriptions are due in that month. It does not follow that all the annual meetings need be held in April.

The Parent Society does not hold its General Meeting until July, for instance. Branches can hold their General Meetings between March and June, and this gives the Instructor an opportunity to be present.

A copy of the Statement of Accounts of each Branch Society should be handed to the Instructor to be sent to the Secretary of the Parent Society. It is desirable that the Instructors should be as closely associated with the Branches as possible, and be aware how their finances stand. All Branches should have their Treasurer's accounts audited. In fact, all financial matters should be carried through in a good business manner.

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DIARIES.—Before the end of last year we advised all our small settlers who had not formed the salutary habit of keeping a diary, to purchase one of those advertised in this JOURNAL, and start it from the 1st of January, recording every event of note in the holding.

When the cow dropped her calf, when the mare was put to the stallion, when the new sow was bought and her age, when the red hen hatched her chickens, when the corn or yams, etc., were planted ; and on what days rain fell, &c.

And those who had not yet adopted the good business principle of keeping books, that is records of all their money transactions, we suggested, should begin simply with a diary, and note therein all the items of the money they received and expended. Branch Societies might discuss this question of bookkeeping for small settlers, because we find that so many who can read and write well, do not trouble to keep books, but trust to their memories. Memories, at the best, are fickle and treacherous.

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AGRICULTURAL INSTRUCTORS AND SCHOOL GARDENS.—Mr. Murray, Inspector for School Gardens, having been appointed master of the school for students at the Stock Farm at Hope, it is not proposed to appoint anyone to this position in connection with School Gardens. An arrangement has been made between the Education Department and the Agricultural Society, whereby the Agricultural Instructors will visit the School Gardens and assist the Teachers, by giving advice and practical demonstrations, and record their visits and their opinions of the state of the garden in the log book.

The following regulation has been laid down for the guidance of Agricultural Instructors;—

1. The Agricultural Instructors are expected to co-operate with the Education Department to secure the efficiency of School Gardens, to visit the School Gardens in their districts, and to advise the teacher in his practical work of cultivating crops, in drainage, mulching, etc., and as to the general working of the Garden and the care of plants.

We believe this co-operation will be excellent in result, and be useful alike to the Teacher and the Instructor. We look forward to the day when School Gardens in suitable centres will be extended so that they may form nurseries of economic plants which the school children will assist in growing, and be able to take so many to their homes and plant in their parents' fields. In this way the present verv rough and careless way of taking any kind of young coffee and cocoa plants to set out in the fields, may be superseded by the planting of shady plants carefully grown from good seed.

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CORN.—We publish a good deal about corn in this issue. We find that paragraphs like this are productive of good. What we wrote on the subject in the JOURNAL for February last year has been since noticed, read and repeated at many branch meetings, and quoted in speakers' remarks. March is the time for planting; seed is not now so scarce as it was a month ago, although the high class grain that we usually can supply is not plentiful. We hope the following will bring home to anyone having land, the necessity of planting corn, and plentv of it, and by reference to the articles on corn in other pages, the reader may be stimulated to prepare his land well, choose good seed, and cultivate better than ever he did before.

If we were asked what was the most important foodstuff in Jamaica, we should be inclined to answer at once, Corn. Why not Bananas? Why not Yams? the two other native grown foodstuffs that bulk most largely in our ordinary dietary, leaving out rice, which is only grown here to a very small extent. Because corn is the most generally useful food, the most versatile plant, growing in all soils from sea level to an elevation of 4,000 feet, is quick growing, so that two crops may be grown within twelve months. In addition, the welfare of every domestic animal, except cattle, depends greatly upon corn, and man is dependent to a large extent on his live stock. When corn crops are good, and corn is plentiful and fairly cheap, say 2/6 per bushel, as used to be commonly the case, the ordinary household, if not in clover, is much better off with corn. There is the roast cob, the home-made hominy (a palatable and substantial food) the sweet flavoured cornmeal, better we think than the dry, harsh, imported meals. The fowls are well fed, eggs are plentiful, and the plump cockerel on the table is not only a pleasure to eat, but is easy in the digestion, and saves dentists' bills. The hogs

grunt contentedly as they crunch the small corn cobs, and their sides expand gratifyingly. The horse and mules travel on corn, and not on the whip. The thud of the lash does not sound on the mules sides, and there is less blocking of the highways with drays that under-fed mules cannot move ; and altogether there is better temper and better language when corn is plentiful. The effects of a good crop of corn are therefore far-reaching.

We know of no crop that should be moro encouraged, more fostered, or should have more knowledge or industry put into it than Corn-growing.

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DROUGHT-RESISTING CORN.—In addition to cultural methods calculated to withstand drought, such as deep preliminary cultivation, continuous surface cultivation while the plants are growing, or mulching where sufficient mulch can be got, there are wanted varieties of plants that can withstand long dry weather.

In old agricultural countries like parts of Africa, China, India, where much attention has been given to food crops, and large areas are dry. almost deserts, there are such varieties of plants to be found.

What we should like to have is a variety of maize, that had long been habituated to grow with a minimum of moisture, not over a few years, but over centuries. It would be of more utility to send seed corn to Southern St. Elizabeth, where it is often so very dry, that had been grown under dry conditions, rather than from a seasonable climate as we have too often. We try not to, but when corn cannot be had from a dry district, we cannot help ourselves. Again, what is the use of sending potato slips grown under seasonable conditions or by irrigation, to be grown in very dry districts. We pointed out this repeatedly to those who applied to us for supplies of potato slips from the Prison Farm.

Agriculture is not a simple thing : it is marvellous in its complexities, and the more one knows of it, the less confident one becomes over the problems involved in evading wrong or fighting nature.

What we should like is some of these drought-resisting varieties of maize to cross with our corn. There is great room for experimental work of this kind here.

In China near Shanghai, a variety of maize is grown by the natives that yields a crop in dry years, when varieties introduced from America fails. This Chinese maize has been introduced into the United States by the Department of Agriculture there. Its leaves, especially the upper ones, are so twisted that they seem to grow on one side of the stalk, which is short and stocky. The fan-like shield of leaves over-topping the plant is an arrangement for catching and holding the pollen and preventing its blowing away in the hot dry winds.

The Mexican hairy maize, also introduced by the United States Department of Agriculture, comes from the high plateau of Mexico. It is said to give a crop, without a drop of rain, during the growing season. It is a tall plant, with long stretching joints, leaves set far apart and lopping at all angles. The ear is of the White Dent type. The root system is a wide spreading water gatherer, suited to desert places.

Last year Professor H. F. Roberts of the Kansas Agricultural College crossed plants of a dozen western Kansas varieties of short season Dent maize with the Chinese, and vice-versa. Some of the hybrids show the upright leaves of the Chinese; others have the covered tassel; some have the corkscrew chute for the pollen, and others have all three; but all of them show the large ears of the American maize, although definitely coloured as a result of uniting the garnet or ruby grains with the pure white or pure yellow of the American strains.

Certain combinations were effected by crossing the Mexican with the Chinese, and vice-versa, and by crossing the Mexican with the Western Kansas maize, all white varieties like the visitor.

Triple combinations also were made of the Mexican and the Chinese-American hybrids. This work still goes on.

We are, through the kindness of the Department of Agriculture, U.S.A., getting some of the drought-resisting corns to try.

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RATS.—If you find rats are not taking your poisoned bait, and are shy of your traps, get a little Plaster of Paris, or common cement used in making concrete does quite as well. Mix it with some cornmeal or crushed corn, in the proportion of not less than one to four. Put this down in your cornfield, or near your corn where it is stored, or near where you keep your cornmeal. The rats will eat the mixture, develop a thirst, seek water, and die with a piece of concrete in their insides. This plan makes a good variation in rat-killing methods. We have had it come off successfully many times.

Do not keep rubbish lying about. Have a manure heap covered from the weather, a cheap thatch roof set on a few posts does for a shed and put all the rubbish there, except such hard stuff as cans and bottles. Do not fling these away but keep these in a place by themselves; they will come in handy at times. Broken bottles and butter tins bury in a hole.

The wood ashes keep in a barrel or box, out of the wet and apply them as medicine to any sick tree or one that looks most in need of some tonic. Look on the wood ashes as a "Condition Powder" for your trees.

BRANCH NOTES.

Aeolus Valley, (St, Thomas) A special meeting of this branch was held, Monday, 3rd February, 1913. at 4 p, m., in the Church School Room. There were 20 members and 2 visitors. The object of the meeting was the Instructor's visit. (J. Briscoe Esq) As the President was rather busy and could not attend, the vice-President also was absent. Mr. Wm. Stewart was asked to fill the chair for the time being which was agreed to, Meeting opened by prayer. Minutes of last meeting read and confirmed, correspondence also was read. Chairman said if it is the mind of the meeting the long deferred grind stone could be sent for at once as carriage was available, ? this was unanimously agreed to, and the Secretary was chosen to do that business. Mr. Briscoe kindly gave a letter of recommendation to C. T. Isaac's store, Kingston. A petition got up by the Secretary, the result of a Resolution passed in a previous meeting, was signed, to be posted to the Board of Education. Burden of petition, —needs of a free School. Meeting day changed to 3rd Thursday in every month instead of 4th Thursday in as this Branch's report has been always too late for publication in the JOURNAL. 4th Instructor's lecture, was edyifying, and instructive, re mulching the land heavily to cope with drought. Choice grains, large and well matured, for seed and large coconuts from healthy trees should be planted. 5th. Necessity of Loan Bank needed in time of emergency and great stress, help can be got if you are a shareholder. Some interested persons required to manage and work the Bank. He expressed and hoped that at his next visit something may be done to establish one here. A vote of thanks accorded the lecturer was moved by the Acting Chairman, seconded, and carried. Meeting came to a close.—R. A. JONES, Secretary.

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Red Hills, (Clarendon) The usual monthly meeting was held at the Schoolroom on Monday the 3rd February. There were present, Messrs. Jas. M. Watts, Sml. Schliefer, Instructor for the Parish, M. Risden, 21 members and 8 visitors. The Secretary being absent, M. Risden Esq, was asked to take the minutes. After the President addressing the meeting in brief words, he asked the Instructor to speak to the members. His subjects were Loan Bank, pig rearing, and the kind of crops that should be grown on lands and their district. In dealing with the kind of crops etc., he showed where much energy and money are lost by growing crops on soils and places where the conditions necessary for the growth of such crops are bad. Experiment should be made so as to ascertains those that are adaptable to the situations. The question of cane growing was brought up by Mr. J. Hill Brown, and was put off until the next meeting when a discussion may be had on the subject, Authorized persons were reminded of their duty by the Instructor, and were told that a quarterly report from each one is required by the Society. It was deferred for discussion to the next meeting that Fridays be fixed for the holdings of meetings instead of Tuesdays, also that a bi-monthly meeting and monthly practical demonstrations be instituted in place of having both monthly. The meeting adjourned until March next.—J. A. RISDEN, Acting Secretary.

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Wilmington, (St. Thomas) The regular monthly meeting took place in the Wilmington Schoolroom on Wednesday February 5th at 6 p. m. There were present Messrs. A, G. Donaldson, M. P. B. President, J. I. Martin, vice-president, 29 members and the Secretary. The meeting was opened with prayer by Mr. Speid after which the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. There being no matter arising out of the minutes the meeting proceeded to business. Correspondence was first dealt with. Letter was read from Mr. H. C. Thomas, Agricultural

Instructor thanking the Society for co-operation and support extended to him in his words as an Instructor and informing them of his dismissal. The Secretary was advised to reply expressing regret at this information as Society had always thought Mr, Thomas an efficient and energetic officer deeply interested in the development of agriculture on right principles. A resolution of confidence in this gentleman's work was also drafted to be forwarded to the Board of Management. Circular from Parent Society, re yams was also dealt with and the Secretary was advised to reply in detail to questions asked. Letter from Mr, L. A. Wates, *Agricultural Instructor re his* proposed *visit on the 13th inst.*. was next dealt with and the President asked that all the members make *it a point of duty to turn out to meet this gentleman at 10 o'clock a. m.*, on that day. Letter from Hon. H. Cork re Stanton Road was next read —this letter contained useful information and the Secretary was advised to write thanking the Hon. Member for information and interest displayed in the matter. Mr. Obediah Bailey was nominated for the position of an Authorised Person for the District to be recommended to the Parent Society. Mr. Charles Thomas of Wilmington was elected a new member of the Society. It was decided not to arrange for the date of next meeting in view of Mr. Wates' coming visit as in order to have this gentleman present at the monthly meetings it was necessary to find out the date convenient for him. Several other minor matters affecting the working and progress of the Society were discussed. The singing of the National Anthem brought a very lively and enthusiastic meeting to a close.—R. W. O'Neil Speid, (Secretary.)

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Belfield, (St. Mary.) The regular monthly meeting was held on the 5th of February 1913, when about 30 members and Mr. W. Cradwick, Instructor, were present. Mr. W. Morris the first vice-president presided. On the motion of Mr. H. E. Vernon, seconded by Mr. C. A. Monaghan, the resolution which was passed at the last meeting to be forwarded to H. D. Graham Esq., discountenancing what the meeting considered a discourteous letter accompanying his resignation as president of the Branch, was rescinded, and a new one substituted ; and the Secretary was directed to inform Mr. Graham that his resignation had been accepted. Mr. W. Morris elected president for the remainder of the year. The following persons were elected members of the branch ; Messrs. H. G. Constantine, D. Lawrence, D. F. Wright and Mrs. A. Strachan. Mr. H. E. Vernon expressed his regret at the late Governor's departure, which he designated as a blow to Jamaica generally and St. Mary in particular. *The meeting voiced his sentiments* and a *resolution* was subsequently passed by the meeting, expressing heartfelt regret at *Sir Sydney Olivier's departure* and also asking the *Acting Governor to* forward a copy to Sir Sydney Olivier. The secretary informed the meeting that the Parent Society had granted and forwarded to the Branch 3 bushels of cow peas. The meeting expressed much gratitude to the Parent Society which the secretary was instructed to convey to them by letter. Mr. Haughton on behalf moved a vote of thanks, seconded by Mr. Cradwick, to Mr. Vernon for his interest and forethought in moving the resolution whereby the branch obtained the peas. On the motion of Mr. Vernon, seconded by Mr. Samuel Hibbert a resolution was passed thanking the government for opening relief work on the "Hardy Hill" and further asking that the same relief work be continued to the "Wildman Hill" with a view of relieving the financial strain through which the district of Belfield is now passing. It was resolved to send one copy each to the Acting Governor and the Director of Public Works. Mr. Cradwick dealt with the Loan Bank question. After explaining to the meeting the various requisitions, and pointing out the causes of delay in granting loans he answered a variety of knotty and technical questions put to him to the satisfaction of the meeting and this lended

in a great measure to cheer the heart of many an intended borrowe who was losing hope of ever getting a loan. The meeting on a whole ex pressed dissatisfaction on the great loss they would suffer by no getting the loan earlier. Mr. Cradwick arranged to demonstrate at Mr Helps property on Tuesday the 11th, and to visit any member who s desired. He strongly urged members to enter the cocoa competition Mr. Helps was appointed a Trustee of the Belfield Penny Bank i place of Mr. H. D. Graham who resigned. The meeting adjourned til the first Wednesday in March. The weather continues favourable t agriculturists. Seasonable showers fall now at intervals just suitable t "whip" up the plants. All plants around are putting on a health appearance and the agricultural outlook is quite encouraging. Ther are hopeful prospects for a very fine spring season.—R. S. HAUGHTON Secretary.

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Central (St. Mary).—On Thursday 6th February, the regular monthl meeting was held in the Eliot school room. The president presided. Ther were present the Secretary, Mr. Cradwick, instructor and ten members Minutes of last meeting read and confirmed. How to bring the authorise persons under some control ? gave rise to a lengthy discussion. Th two authorised person present gave their experiences in which the showed dissatisfaction with the treatment often meted out to them a the hands of the police, and the judge. In one case the police dismisse a very strong case taken up by one of these authorised persons and i an other case the judge told the authorised person that he had no busines to interfere with such a case. Yet, strange to say the party suspecte was sentenced for three months. Both men stated that they got no pa for the day or days given to making the arrests, and working up the cas for court. All this tended to discourage a body of useful men. Mr Cradwick felt that such a state of things, should not be allowed to con tinue. A representation should be made to the parent society throug the medium of a committee, committee appointed, president, the two aut horised person, Messrs. J. Gordon and T. Livingston. The secretary to mee with the Rev. Mr. Wolcott at an early date. A very lengthy and usefu discussion then followed. The subject was the best way of placing the ba nana suckers in the ground when planting. Mr. Wolcott thought it wis and advisable to remove as much of the old stem as possible, leaving on or two of the healthiest eyes on the head. Mr. Cradwick supported this and spoke strongly on the importance of selecting the best suckers fo planting. The secretary questioned whether there was anything to b gained when the old stem from which the fruit has been removed, is cu entirely away from the very root, at the time of reaping. He stated tha he noticed on one of the neighbouring plantations, the stems were cu away leaving the followers to look out for themselves. He thought, a was commonly believed, that the old stem supplied the followers wit water, and hence is of great benefit especially in the dry season. Mr Cradwick stated that it was better, especially at this season to cut every thing away, as at this season the planter is making provisions for hi next spring crop in the way of selecting suckers. He further stated tha the banana being an underground stem the follower got little or practi cally no support from the stem above ground. Some of the member thought the old stem of use to the follower especially in drought provide it be not allowed to remain standing, and get rotten and become offensive Mr. Cradwick stated that he saw this expermented upon on a fairly larg scale, and was in a position to state that the followers gain much whe the old stem is entirely cut away. Members present showed themselve interested and proposed to experiment, themselves, on his advice. Th president regretted the small attendance, he however had pleasure i asking Mr. Wolcott to address the meeting. Mr. Wolcott said he wa pleased to see that there were still a faithful few. In the course of a ver

inspiring address, studded with noble exhortations and practical hints, he said, there is a crying need for constant application in everything that is done. This lacking quality was conspicuous in almost every enterprise of the nation. He asked the members present to make some effort and if necessary, sacrifice for the good of the society if it is to be a success. He further stated that the month of February is one of the most important months for agriculture, and that this was the best season for setting hens. He invited the members to plant a select species of black eye peas and kidney beans, samples of which he showed. Mr. Cradwick addressed the meeting, reminding the members of the cocoa competition in April, and calling attention to the points to be taken into consideration by the judges. He spoke in high terms of the way in which the Richmond Bank Committee was pegging away at the task before then and nothing was left undone, to hasten matters as far as was possible. Mr. Cradwick promised to demonstrate in the field of Mr. Taylor on the 18th inst. On the motion of Mr. Taylor a vote of thanks was accorded these gentlemen. The secretary thought that the society should approach the authorities responsible, to find out what steps were being taken to bridge the Ham boy River. He was instructed to communicate with the Hon. Mr. Simmonds on the matter. He was further instructed to find out from the general secretary if seeds could be got for this branch. Mr. J. Gordon gave notice to move at the next meeting that a grind stone be bought for the use of the members of the branch. Mr. Cradwick promised to be at April meeting when he would lead for burning. The president called for a meeting of the managing Committee on the 11th. The National Anthem closed the proceedings.—G. A. GUNTER, Secretary.

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Cambridge (St. James).—The usual monthly meeting took place on Thursday 6th February, at 6 p.m. There were present: H. Denton, treasurer, R. M. Arnold, acting secretary, A. H. Hoare, agricultural Instructor and sixteen members. After the reading and confirmation of the minutes of the meeting of 24th January. The treasurer .Mr. Denton, was asked to read his report for the closing year. This was done, and a discussion on certain financial statements moved. owing to the absence of the secretary the minutes of certain past meetings could not be properly understood and the further consideration of the report was postponed for next meeting, and the acting secretary was asked to try and impress on the secretary the necessity of attending it. A letter was read from Mr. Barclay promising to send some seed corn by next week, and a resolution was carried purporting that he be asked to send some cow peas as well if there is any on hand. Messrs. George Dayes. H. L. Roper and D. E. Dixon were elected. Mr. Hoare gave a very interesting lecture in which he advocated strongly the advisability of regulating bananas to meet the 1914 spring crop. He had noticed that some planters were doing this whilst others were aiming for the 1913 fall for exportation and for the Bruce Hall fig factory. He thought the latter a mistake, although it was a subject on which he would invite discussion. He also advocated deep draining, and cross field draining with one main down-drain. Also deep and fine forking. A few admirable hints on corn and cocoa cultivation brought a very enjoyable lecture to a close. In the discussion on the fall or spring banana harvest. Mr. Keer referred to the great use of the banana as the daily diet and the fact that the exigencies of our present, post hurricane condition call for bananas as soon as we can get them. We will get both money and food from them. Mr. Hoare admitted this, but still advised that large planters especially should hold back the greatest portion of their crops for the better prices. Mr. Myers gave notice to move at next meeting that the time for the general meetings be altered. Also that this branch become a shareholder in the Bethel Town Loan Bank. The secretary was asked to furnish-

a correct list of the memberships of the branch to Mr. Barclay so as to ensure each member getting a monthly copy of the JOURNAL. The next meeting will be held on March 6th when officers for the ensuing financial year will be elected.—R. M. ARNOLD, Acting Secretary.

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Stewart Town (Trelawny).—The regular monthly meeting was held on Thursday evening the 6th February. Mr. John Stockbansen, J. P., the president of the branch, occupied the chair. There were present N. Josiah Johnson, secretary, and six members. After prayer was offered by the president, the business commenced, and the minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. The secretary was requested to give a report of the Half Yearly General Meeting held in Kingston which he attended as representative of the branch, on the 16th January. After tho secretary had given some account of what took place he was accorded the thanks of the branch, especially when it is considered he attended at his own cost, and had rendered admirable service to the branch. The matter of the Stewart Town people's co-operative loan bank, Ltd. that has been formed as a result of the meeting held for the purpose on the 30th January at which Mr. J. T. Palache was present, was the next matter attended to. Many shares have been taken up. The documents connected with the working of the bank are now in the hands of the secretary pro tem., Mr. Josiah Johnson, and as soon as the officers to manage the bank are elected loan operations will begin. A few other matters were attended to and the meeting terminated.—JOSIAH JOHNSON, Secretary.

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Gibraltar (St. Ann).—This branch held its monthly meeting on the 6th February 1913. There were present, the secretary seventeen members and visitors. Mr R. S. Barnett presided. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. Letters were read from the parent society re the half-yearly meeting, and from the parochial board re petition sent in from this society. Mr. Barnett who was appointed as representative to the half yearly meeting gave his report. He was thanked for his service rendered. The co operative loan bank to be formed at Stewart Town waa fully discussed. The secretary who had attended the meeting fully explained the scheme and answered several questions asked by the members. Many intimated they would become members. JOURNAL matters were next dealt with. The proper distances in the planting of coffee, with the advantages attending it were taken up, also the utilizing of fowl manure which was formerly thought nothing of. All the members present expressed their intention of making use of it in future. A petition re Somerton Road was presented to the meeting and it was moved by Mr. Thomas Campbell and seconded by Mr. James McNish that it be sent on to the Parochial Board by the secretary. The meeting then terminated with the singing of the National Anthem.—J. B. MORRISON, Secretary.

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Marlborough (St. Mary).—The regular monthly meeting was held in the Marlborough Schoolroom, on the 6th February, 1913, at 7 30 a.m. There were present the following members: Messrs. Alfred J. Duncan, president, A. W. Coy, 1st vice-president, the secretary and eleven members. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. It was agreed that another resolution re the unsatisfactory condition of roads No. 37, and 42 in the Richmond district, be sent to the parochial board of the Parish. The secretary read a letter from the Hon. R. P. Simmonds M.L.C., expressing his regret for being unable to attend the meeting, as he had to attend a meeting of the loan board the same day. The secretary informed the Meeting that he had sent an application to the Jamaica Agricultural Society, with the necessary fee of five shillings,

and presented the receipt for the said amount. Next followed the appointment of an authorized person for the district. On the motion of the president, seconded by Mr. C. G. Green, Mr. A. Duncan McFarlane, was unanimously elected for the position. The appointment of another was deferred until next meeting. Great disappointment was felt by the meeting, as the instructor, who was down for an address, did not turn up. The rules for the government of the society were read by the secretary, and adopted. The appointmont of a member to serve on the managing committee, was deferred. The president in a brief address asked the members to be alive to their duties, and to use their influence in getting others in the district to become members of the society. It was unanimously agreed that all future monthly meetings of the society be held on the first Thursday of the month at 4 p m. The singing of the National Anthem, brought the meeting to a close.—R. SAMUEL FINLAYSON, Secretary.

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Mahoe Hill (St. Mary).—The monthly meeting was held in the school room on Thursday, 6th February. Presided over by the president. minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. Letter from Colonial Secretary was read saying, that Sir Sydney Olivier before his departure from the Island had promised to give attention to the condition of the road of the district. Another letter from Sir J. Pringle conveying his sympathy and promising to do his best to am liorate the condition of the people. The secretary received permission from the society to reply to urgent and important letters without waiting for a meeting, also correspondence of importance and benefit to the district in the name of the society. Arrears. The secretary was directed to write members who are in arrears to make settlement. By-laws. The president refered to Rules for this society and asked Mr. Cradwick to supply us with rules from any of the branch societies which we may select to suit local conditions. We will not be able to get Mr. Cradwick here just now, as he is very busy about loan banks. He explained the benefit to be accrued from loan banks. He advised all to be share-holders whether they require a Loan from the Government or not. Meeting closed with the National Anthem. First Thursday of March being fixed for next meeting.—W. A. SIBBLIES, Secretary.

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Mount Regale (St. Mary).—The monthly meeting of this branch was held on the 7th February. The following were present, Messrs. W. Cradwick, instructor, who presided, B. Thomas Aitkinson, secretary, and eight members. A petition to be sent to the parochial board was presented for signatures asking them to take over the footpath connecting road No. 19 with mainroad through Plantfield and convert it into a riding road. The findings of a committee appointed to report on the unsuitability of registrar office recommending a removal, were read but discussion was deferred as the attendance was small. Letters were read from Mr. Barclay re goats and pigs in answer to inquiries from the branch, but matters are still under consideration. It was pointed out that peas and corn can not be got for planting and the secretary was instructed to write Mr. Barclay and ask for a free grant of peas owing to the loss the planters sustained from the recent storm. Mr. Cradwick explained the advantages in planting irish potatoes but nobody seemed particularly interested in it hence no order was made. Authorized Constable Johnson reported that he made two arrests and secured two convictions while Authorized Constable Bailey reported 5 arrests with 5 convictions. They are still without hand cuffs. Messrs. Grey and Delisser members of the parochial board are to be invited through the branch to visit the road on March 8, when we hope to hold our next meeting.—B. THOMAS ATKINSON, Secretary.

Above Rocks (St. Andrew).—On Tuesday the 4th February, the 7th monthly meeting of this branch was held in this schoolroom at 6 p.m. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. The secretary read a letter from Mr. Barclay re loan bank advising the members of this branch to take shares in the Glengoffe Bank as more local than Linstead. Resolutions were then submittted. Mr. Gordon moved the following resolutions. Be it resolved that owing to a surprisingly large number of deaths in and around this district, of Above Rocks due to a peculiar kind of Diarrhoea as well as the general need that exists for Medical aid and seeing that the L. M. O. for the district resided at Linstead about sixteen miles away and the nearest Medical Officer is stationed at Stony Hill twelve miles distant, this society approach the government, immediately, and request the superintending Medical Officer to form a new district and grant us a D. M. O. for this large and populous district. This was seconded by the secretary and strongly supported by Mr. Clarke. After a short discussion the resolution was unanimously voted on favourably. Mr. A. J. Clarke moved a resolution that Above Rocks should be connected by telephone to Glengoffe. This was seconded by Mr. Pusey. After discussion an amendment was put by Mr. Gorden which was seconded by the secretary and carried unanimously when voted on. It ran as follows. Whereas a large and ever increasing business in bananas and other products is being carried on here with Bog Walk as our chief outlet and seeing that no facilities in the way of telegraphic communications are available, the lack of which entails great loss in various ways, be it resolved that this branch of the Jamaica Agricultural Society request the government through the Post Master for Jamaica to establish a telephonic communication connecting Bog Walk with Glengoffe and Above Rocks. It was agreed that besides sending these resolutions to the superintending medical officer, and the Post Master General, copies be sent to the representative for the parish. With regard to the Golden River Road, a Committee Messrs. Clarke, Pusey and Naugh were constituted to draft the petition. Mr. Riley moved that the society arrange for the sale of the members fruits, in a sort of Combine so as to procure good prices. The president promised to do his best in this matter. The society proposed that Mr. West of Barnett be asked to lecture at the next meeting on cattle rearing.

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Dallas and Constitution Hill, (St. Andrew). A very lively meeting was held at the Constitution Hill on Friday February 7th. Including two new members, there were present, thirteen members. Mr. J. L. Vickridge (president) was in the chair. Meeting opened with prayer lead by Mr. McCrae. Minutes were then read and confirmed. As arising out of the minutes, Mr. Cunningham enquired about the purchase of the 'Ram' for the Society. Rev. Mr. Edwards was not present to move his resolution, notice of which was given last meeting. The desired continuation of the driving road which stops at the Hope flat came in for discussion. As it exists it will benefit no one in either of the districts but if continued its value to the districts would be almost incalculable. As the motions notified by the Rev. Mr. Edwards had reference to the said grievance it was decided to defer a full discussion to the next meeting when it is hoped that he will be present. In view of the fact that there is always a difficulty and uncertainty in securing the presence of Rev. Mr. Edwards and a few other prominent members on the first Friday, on account of other pressing duties they have to discharge on that day. Mr. McIntosh gave notice of motion to change the date of our meetings from 1st to 2nd Friday in the month. At this point a letter from one of the vice-presidents suggesting the desired change was read. In answer to a question about, Irish potatoes, the president informed the meeting for the benefit of certain members that at the last meeting it was agreed that St. Vincent yams were to be substituted for

the Irish potatoes promised to us by the Parent Society. Secretary gave a few hints on selection of seed-corn, especially, and of seeds for planting, generally. Corn seeds should be selected from the middle of cobs taken from the healthiest and most productive plants. They should be selected before the whole crop is taken in or afterwards it will be difficult if not impossible to make the selections. The practice of planters, putting by for the planting those seeds too poor for market as is often done with Irish potatoes, is pernicious. He also explained how to ensure, or at least try to secure success in 'budding.' He dealt with selection of stock and bud ; time to bud : preparation of budding tape ; and precautions to be taken in cutting buds, inserting them on the stock and tying them with tape. This society observes with regret that its members are not receiving sufficient visits from instructors for the purpose of demonstrating. It desires to call the attention of the Parent Society to this disadvantage, with the hope that its members may receive a little more attention. This is a district in which much skill is needed to have success in cultivation and much effective teaching is necessary to make theory effective. It was suggested that a plot of land be secured on which members of the society could experiment. The suggestion found favour but nothing very definite was arranged to put it into effect. The president urged members to spare no pains in trying to improve the society by increasing the membership in other ways, also two new members were enrolled. Mr. Cyril Lindo, (proposed by secretary, seconded by Mr. Crosedale) and Mr. Elijah Josophs (proposed by Mr. Cunningham and seconded by Mr. McIntosh). The secretary was requested to order for members three barrels of Irish potatoes. This carried, the meeting rose.—C. A. LITTLE, (Secretary).

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Richmond, (St. Mary). The regular monthly meeting was held in the Richmond Schoolroom on Friday the 7th February, at 5.30 p. m., 1913. There were present, the agricultural instructor, and wife, president, secretary, vice-president and 13 members. The president called the meeting to order. Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. Correspondence from the Parochial Board was read. The president said that at the March meeting the authorised persons are requested to submit to the meeting their quarterly reports. Mr. Cradwick then addressed the meeting on the rules and principles governing Loan Banks. He read and explained from a publication in the Gleaner of the 23rd January. So clear and plain was his explanation, that it took from the minds of some of the members the doubts and misconceptions under which they had been labouring. The president who is on a committee of the bank gave a brief account of its work. He said there was plenty of work completed, and that they had already spent five days going through 3,700 applications from people of divers conditions, and he was sure that in the near future the long sought goal will be reached. The president also gave notice that the treasurer be requested to report on the annual financial standing of the society at the next meeting. The instructor gave notice that on the 22nd he will demonstrate at Mr. T. Davis' cultivation. The secretary gave notice to hold an agricultural entertainment at the end of March, and also to write to other adjacent societies to unite in the same. The president gave an account of the half yearly meeting held in Kingston. He said that little was said regarding agriculture, in general but time was taken up with argument about the distress in St. Elizabeth and southern Manchester, finally he said, if year by year their lives are so joeparised by nature, then the younger ones should migrate to some other locality, where they could get some government land, offered for sale. It was now 7.20 and with the singing of the National Anthem the meeting was adjourned till the first Friday in March, 1913.—CHARLES GREGG, Secretary.

Hanover.—The first quarterly meeting of the Hanover Agricultural Society was held at the Court House, Lucea, on Saturday the 8th February commencing at 1.30 p.m. In the absence of the president and senior vice president, the Rev. J. M. McDonold one of the vice presidents, took the chair. As arising out of the minutes of the special meeting, a discussion took place with regard to the distribution of the peas sent by the Jamaica Agricultural Society. The distributors stated that the quantity of peas sent was inadequate, was a mere trifle to the cultivators and that more peas was urgently needed. They also gave the impression that red beans were much more preferred than black-eye peas. The secretary was consequently instructed to request the secretary of the Jamaica Agricultural Society to send a supply of red beans. It was also decided to ask for a supply of St. Vincent and yellow yam heads, as there was a great scarcity of them. The secretary reported that he had had information that the secretary of the Agricultural Society would send a supply of corn for planting. This was hailed with delight, as corn for planting is one of the many desiderata of the cultivators of Hanover at the present time. The members all expressed dissatisfaction at the working of the Loan Bank, and after full and free discussion, it was unanimously agreed to send the following minute to the Secretary of the Jamaica Agricultural Society :—"At a meeting of the Hanover Agricultural S.- held to day at the Court House, Lucea, the question of the Loan Bank was discussed. It was agreed that the following minute on the subject be adopted and that a copy of it be sent to the secretaryof the Jamaica Agricultural Society to be forwarded to the Colonial Secretary, and that a copy of it be sent to the Committee of Management of the Hanover Peolpes Co-operative Loan Society. "That extreme disappointment is felt among planters and cultivators in Hanover in connection with the Loan Bank. This is due chiefly to two main reasons, "(1) The great delay in the money being available. It is now two and a half months since the cyclone, and the Government, as it was thought, stepped forward with an offer of immediate help in the shape of loans on easy terms to meet the emergency, whereas not a single loan has been made. That the money should have been available before this was of vital necessity and on account of the delay, even if the money were available now, many acres will fall out of cultivation which otherwise would have been cultivated. This is going to be a great loss to the parish, and to the island as a whole. Many cultivators say that the money is of no use to them now, and they are withdrawing their applications for loans and are also desirous of withdrawing from membership in the Loan Society. "(2) That many conditions imposed as to security, the purpose of the loan, etc. The fact that the Loan Board will accept nothing but first mortgages debars a large number of members from getting a loan ; the fact that no other security but land and crops will be accepted, or crops on rented or leased land only when the landlord gives his consent in writing; debars many more. The people joined on the distinct understanding that any good security would be accepted, and in this they feel they have been deceived. "The fact that the money must be applied to agriculture of a productive nature, i.e, cultivation, is another disappointment. The members were told they could buy a cow, a horse or mule. Some lost their stock, and wish now to buy a mule to draw their cane mill and such like, but can't. The scope of the Bank is too narrow to give effective help. "The system of paying the loans in instalments is going to irritate the borrowers and cause inconvenience in the carrying out of their plans. If the security is good, which the Committe of Management will see that it is in every case, there is no reason whatever why the loans should be paid out in little doles. "This meeting of the Hanover Agricultural Society feels that the operations of the bank are so complicated and cumbersome in the granting of loans and the use of loans so hedged about with restrictions, that it will never be of much service to men who have been stricken and are in need of immediate and

effective help as the planters and cultivators of Hanover are " Also the following minute of the Management of the Hanover People's Co-operative Loan Society. "At a meeting of the Hanover Agricultural Society held to-day at the Court House, Lucea, it was decided to send the following minute to the committee of management of the Hanover People's Co-operative Loan Society. "This meeting of the Hanover Agricultural Society would submit that in its opinion the shares should have been £1 shares, instead of £5. At this crisis the great desideratum is money, and to pay up a £5 share is too heavy an obligation at such a time. The financial stability of the bank will not suffer materially, if a change were made as the rules allow, and the planters and cultivators would benefit, the majority of the borrowers want loans from £10 to £20 and this they could have on a £1 share. "This meeting of the Hanover Agricultural Society would ask the committee of management to begin making small loans under Law 6 of 1912, so as to reassure the people and secure their confidence. " In the event of members desirous of withdrawing from the bank on the ground that they are not in a position to receive a loan, as many wish to do, this meeting would suggest that they have refunded to them their entrance fee and forfeit only their paid up share money." Resolutions passed. The following resolutions were also sent along with the minutes .—"At a meeting of the Hanover Agricultural Society held to-day at the Court House, Lucea, upon the adoption of the foregoing minutes, the following resolutions were unanimously passed :—" Wherefore he it resolved : (1) That the Jamaica Agricultural Society be respectfully asked to make representation to His Excellency the Acting Governor to have Law 36 of 1912 amended so as to more effectively meet the situation in the western parishes. (2) "That the Jamaica Agricultural Society be respectfully asked to have Mr. Palache sent round to Lucea, and other places where loan banks have been formed to straighten out the difficulties complained of. (3) That the committee of management of the Hanover People's Co-operative Loan Society be respectfully asked to consider the advisability of calling a meeting of the shareholders to press the difficulties involved in Law 36 of 1912 upon the Government if need be, and to discuss the matters referred to in the foregoing minute, viz., the shares, refunding of the entrance fee, etc. " A member who is a yam-grower referred to an article giving the cost of and receipts, from the cultivation of an acre of yams in Hanover, which appeared in the December JOURNAL of the Jamaica Agricultural Society. He stated that in his experience the cost of cultivating an acre of yams was much more than what is stated in the article. Others agreed with him ; but it was pointed out that the figures might be quite correct for other districts of the parish. The Treasurer presented his financial statement which showed £7 5s. in the Government Savings Bank, and 4s. 8d. in hand. The statement was adopted. The election of Officers was deferred for the next meeting. The meeting then adjourned.

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Claremont, (St. Ann). The regular meeting was held on Saturday February 8th 1913. There were pesent : Hon. Colonel Moulton Barrett, President, Mr. C. N. Hemming secretary, and 20 members. (1) The minutes of the last meeting on the 11th January were read and confirmed. (2) Two letters from Mr. Barclay were read.—One stating that an agricultural instructor had not yet been appointed for the parish, the other, that good seed corn could not be got (at that time) for less than 10/ per bushel and that ten bushels of this would be sent down towards the end of that month. (3) Ninteen new members were elected, bringing up the total membership of the society to eighty-five. (4) Mr. C. N. Hemming who filled the position of secretary for a number of years resigned his appointment. This was considered a great loss to the society. The president spoke feelingly of Mr. Hemming's resignation and proposed a

vote of thanks to him for his able services which was seconded Tivy. The Rev. H. F. Sharp proposed Mr. F. P. Alexander as secretary. This was seconded by Mr. Young and carried. (5) Mr. Tivy read an interesting and valuable paper on the picking, wrapping, packing and shipping of oranges. A discussion followed which brought out the necessity of co operation in the selling of oranges. (6) The meeting adjourned for Saturday the 8th March.—F. P. ALEXANDER, Secretary.

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St. Georges, (Portland). The annual general meeting was held on Saturday the 8th February at 2 p. m., in the Court Room, Buff Bay. The following gentlemen were present : The agricultural instructors, Messrs. W. Cradwick and A. P. Hanson, and R. A. Sutherland, secretary, The minutes of the last annual meeting were read and confirmed. Rev. Thompson moved that Mr. R. P. Dunn be asked to take the chair, Mr. Hill seconded : carried. Mr. Dunn then presided. Election of president :—Mr. Hill moved and Mr. Miller seconded, that Mr. Dunn be elected president but Mr. Dunn rose and thanked the mover and seconder but showed forcibly where he would not be able to accept the position and this motion having been withdrawn, Mr. Dunn moved that Mr. Hill be elected president ; Mr. Cradwick seconded and it was carried unanimously. Mr. Dunn vacated the chair and Mr. Hill in accepting it said that he was afraid that he would not have much time and consequently would not be always present but he will try to do his best to further the interests of the society. Mr. Hanson said that he was not conversant with the past history of the society, but he was sure that Mr. Hill's election will give much satisfaction to the affiliated branch societies. Mr. Dunn and the Rev. W. J. Thompson were both proposed and elected vice presidents. The following gentlemen, Messrs. C. A. Miller, R. L. Hollinsed, W. G. Russell, Geo. D. Henriques, R. A. Burgess, Isaac Hoase. T. C. Geddes, J. Horn, J. O. Mason, E. Ernest Gray, were proposed and elected the committee of management of the society. Mr. R. A. Sutherland was proposed and re-elected secretary. Mr. Hanson complained that the minutes of the meetings were not always appearing in the JOURNALS monthly and that he would suggest that the secretary send up the minutes to the Editor of the Agricultural Journal. After much discussion it was agreed that the secretary send up the minutes to the JOURNAL monthly including the minutes of the affiliated branches. There was a discussion on what was to be done with the buildings on the Show ground and it was finally agreed that Messrs. Miller, Hill, and Dunn be appointed as a committee to confer with the Trustee on the matter. Messrs. Dunn and Miller having been appointed auditors presented their report which showed that the society had the sum of one pound four shillings and sixpence to its credit. The auditors were thanked. Mr. Hanson informed the meeting that the Parent society has St. Vincent yams for sale. Mr. Thompson said that the visit of the instructors was much appreciated and he would ask them to explain to the peasant proprietors the reasons for the delay re Loan Banks. There was a discussion on the cocoa industry of the district and it was the concensus of opinion that the Government should establish a few demonstrative plots and nurseries in central places in the leading districts. By resolution Messrs. R. P. Dunn and Geo. D. Henriques were congratulated on their having been created J. P.'s.—R. A. SUTHERLAND, Secretary.

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Lower St. David's, (St. Thomas). Monthly meeting was held in the Church of England Schoolroom on the 8th February. There were present : The vice-president, the assistant secretary, Rev. A. Cole, ex-president and nine other members. Mr. Clarke was accepted Hon. member until the beginning of the financial year. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. The secretary read a letter from Colon-

ial Secretary acknowledging resolution re the proposed Steam Ship Service between Jamaica and Canada. It was agreed that a petition be sent to the Parochial Board of the parish requesting that the road No. 133 leading from Miss Cassup's shop to John Crow's Hill be made a driving road for a half mile. Mr. O. M. Skinner put two motions before the meeting. The first was that of a Penny Savings Bank for the benefit of members. young people and others of the community. This was unanimously carried. The matter was considered at once. The Rev. A. Cole moved that the Trustees be appointed and that the secretary be asked to send for 100 Pass Books to start at once. Agreed. The following persons were appointed Trustees ; Rev. A. Cole, Messrs. O. M. Skinner and Clarke. Mr. Skinner the proposer to be managing director, while Mr. Clarke the other Schoolmaster be treasurer. The Rev. Cole working between. A few members threw light on the subject by showing what it is capable of doing. Mr. A. Bogle said he saved at seperate times £7 14/ when he was a boy through a Penny Bank. The Rev. A. Cole said he knew young people who bought calves. and others who bought lands on which they settled down and married all from the aid of a Penny Savings Bank. The two Schoolmasters would tell their children and show them the value of independence by thrift. The next was that a Show be arranged and carried out this year. This was unanimously carried. It was agreed that a Show Committee be appointed to consider the matter and that the Aeolus Valley Branch be asked to co-operate and send delegates to the Show Committees meeting when same be arranged to consider the matter. Mr. Clarke suggested that a ram be imported to improve the breed as Mr. Briscoe advised on his last visit. It was agreed that not only a ram be obtained but also some fowls. The secretary was asked to make enquiry from Hope Farm as to the value of these animals. Mr. E. Ambersley put in notice of motion re agricultural loan bank for next meeting. Meeting adjourned until second Saturday in March.—O. M, Skinner, assistant and acting Secretary.

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Tryall, (St, Mary). On Tuesday, 11th February 1913, the regular monthly meeting was held. After being called to order by the chairman, the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. Mrs. Rachel Sommers was admitted as a member of the society. Matters arising out of the minutes were discussed, it was thus decided that a letter from this Branch be written to the Surveyor General enquiring as to the possibility of the sale of the following Crown Lands, Hyde Patent and Gordon Run, also that the price be stated. In case of rent, the cost also per acre. It was moved by Mr, S. Kirkland and seconded by Mr. D. U. Roper that the motion re the Bridge over the Penn Carr River be laid over for the next meeting, the matter being an important one and the attendance of this meeting being so small. It was agreed on that the following gentlemen be written to in support of the motion to be dealt with at the next meeting, Messrs. Keeling Westmoreland & Benbow. The secretary was advised to write to the Board as to the possibility of relief work, if no reply was got from the Board, also a letter be sent to Mr. H. R. Cargill, M. P. B., asking that in regard to relief work the Board be asked to recommend weekly payments instead of every two weeks. Owing to a very large landslide about 2 chains from Brace's gutter, and a break away accompanying the said land side which makes the traffic from the crossing of the No. 16 Road on the No. 20 to Bucket Spring very dangerous, that the attention of the Assistant Superintendent of roads be called to it at once, and that the Board be asked at the meeting for a special grant to this very needed portion of the No, 20 road. It was moved by the chairman and seconded by Mr, D. N. Roper, that the parent society be asked to approach the Government on the amendment of the Law affecting the protection of property adjoining parochial roads. The practice of leaving unprotected cultivated lands along parochial roads in order to im-

pound strayed stock for the purpose of making money has become too prevalent, also the time and labour on such cultivations are wasted, that the law be so amended that a fence of some sort, wood or wire, be made to protect the crops grown and hinder strayed animals from being looked upon as a means of making money, Authorised persons to be written to, to present their reports at next meeting. Treasurer also to give a detailed account of expenditure. Annual report also to be read. (1) Motion for next meeting. Work on Public Roads by Mr. J. Bryan seconded by Mr. Ball. (2) Roads 23 and 24 moved by D. N. Roper seconded by secretary. The secretary was instructed to write a letter of enquiry asking the parent society if anything is being done to promote the motion sent from this Branch on behalf of the poorer tax-payers. if not on being informed by General Secretary, this Branch would present the motion in the form of a Petition. After a very interesting meeting the chairman moved an adjournment for the 11th March. 1913. National Anthem.—A. A. CONSTABLE. Secretary.

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Main Ridge (Clarendon).—The regular monthly meeting was held in the Comfort Mission Station on Thursday February 11th at 4.30 p.m. Present, the president, vice-president, treasurer, and secretary, ten members and visitors. The minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed. Election of new members. Mrs. F. Lewin was enrolled as a member. Matters arising out of the minutes. The water supply. This was deferred for next meeting, as the parochial board did not reply to the resolution sent them; Dues were paid. Authorized persons were asked to give report of arrests made, and also the prevention of larceny in their districts. Mr. R. Barnett reported no thefts in his district. One member asked why the meeting was held that day. The reason was the instructor's hands were full of work, and it was necessary to arrange for the meeting. Discussion on the loan from the Government. The members were encouraged to wait a little longer by the instructor. The discussion on the growing of canes was postponed, as the leader was not present. Reading of JOURNAL. Items of interest on cocoa were commented on by the instructor. Lecture on the pruning of coffee, and advice to make barbicues to dry coffee. From 12 to 4 p m. the instructor held a demonstration attended by several members, in the coffee field of Mr. John Bennett. The instructor will visit the cultivations of Messrs. Goulborne and McKenzie. Arrangements will be made at next meeting for a social. The road leading from Kraal, which is in a dangerous condition, was discussed. Time for next meeting the second Friday in March. The singing of the National Anthem brought the meeting to a close.—H. A. ANGLIN, Secretary.

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Upper St. John's (St. Catherine).—The usual monthly meeting was held here on the 11th February. The attendance was small. Present, eleven members and the acting secretary. In the absence of the president and vice-president, Mr. Patterson was elected to the chair. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed after the meeting was called to order. There being nothing arising out of the minutes for discussion. Mr, Green moved that the secretary write to Mr. Mossman, the local instructor, informing him that his absence at the meeting was very much regretted, and that certain documents given to him were not officially acknowledged. This was seconded by Mr. M. A. Rhoden and unanimously accorded. Mr. Cole moved, seconded by Mr, Geo. Rhoden, that the Government be asked to put a bridge over Mountain River, as it is very difficult for people to get across this river with their products to the market during the rainy seasons. The chairman ruled that as the attendance at this meeting was so small, the matter be deferred. to be considered at the next meeting. The secretary was asked

to write to the parent society asking for a grant of black eye peas, cow peas, Irish potatoes. and vegetable seeds. At this stage the president entered and apologised for being late. Mr Dixon gave notice that at the next meeting he will move that the meeting consider the advisability of having some more books of rules printed. Mr. J. H. Patterson was unanimously elected vice-president. The meeting was brought to a close with prayer.—S. L. CROOKS, Actg. Secretary.

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Swift River (Portland).—The regular monthly meeting was held at Mount Olivet on Wednesday, 12th February, at 4 p.m., Mr. J. O. Duhaney, president, in the chair. Present: Agricultural Instructor Mr. A. P. Hanson. Mr. Edwards, Fig Factory Agent, Corporal Blair of the Swift River Police Station, and thirty members and visitors. Minutes of last meeting being struck out were not read. Roll was called and members were asked to pay in their subscriptions. Four new members were elected. The next item, report from authorized persons. Mr. W. Ivey stated he made one arrest, but it failed. Augustus Thomas said in his division praedial larceny is not so prevalent. David Cousins said people were afraid of him, and no stealing prevailed. Others who had done something were not present to give their report. On the whole there was a check, but towards the end of the year and the beginning of this year, a few cases were heard of round about, the reason is the lack of foodstuffs caused by the drought and storm. The next item was a discussion on the Banana Fig Eactory, but as the agent was present he was asked to address the meeting on the subject, which he did. This was listened to with attention. Questions were asked and answered satisfactorily. A sample of the figs was shown and distributed. Next meeting to be held Wednesday 12th March. Mr. A. P. Hanson arranged for a demonstration at 8 a.m. at W. Curate's, and to go to Fairy Hill at 3 p m. The National Anthem sung, brought the meeting to a close.—D. N. PARKER, Secretary,

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PRESTON (St. Mary).—The monthly meeting was held in the Preston schoolroom on the 14th February. It was opened with the reading of scripture and prayer. The president was absent, and Mr. Cradwick, the instructor, who was anxiously looked for, did not turn up. Aft r a long waiting, and as it was growing late, the meeting was called to order, and Mr. J. Parodie, one of the vice-presidents, presided. Minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed. The secretary spoke of the serious illness of Mr. Lawton, an energetic member of the society. The news received the sympathy of the members, who wish for him a speedy recovery. Mr. J. Amiel asked why the petition on road No. 4 was not drafted. The chairman said as they were nearing the completion, Mr. Lawton took ill. and consequently it had to be left over. Mr. R. Brown's motion re the spring in the upper part of the disrict to] be put under water protection law, he said that the persons owning the land surrounding the spring are willing to give such portion as may be required for the protection of said spring. He was requested to inform Mr Lawton of the fact, and he will put the subject before the board. Mr. C. Tucker moved that this society procure a copy of the Sub-officers Guide for reference on legal matters. The secretary said he has a copy, and is willing to place it at the disposal of members, and thus save the society the expense. The chairman moved that an authorized person be appointed in place of Mr. Eustace Robinson, who has left the district. Mr. R. Brown was appointed. This was seconded by Mr. S. Cameron. Mr. B. McEachron spoke about the delay in the granting of loans. Much time was spent on this subject, which was very disappointing to the people, who are very much in need of it. Mr. Thorpe said that there should be no trouble for members of the Agricultural Society to get loans. Mr.

M. Amiel moved that the secretary write Mr. Cradwick reminding him of the purchase of a ram for the society. The secretary reminded the members that the financial year ends on the 31st March, and their subscriptions are to be paid in by them. There were twenty-four members present. Next meeting Friday 14th March. The Benediction brought the meeting to a close.—J, W, WILLIAMS, Secretary.

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WALDENSIA (Trelawny).—The monthly meeting was held on the 14th February. The president being unavoidably absent, and neither of the vice-presidents being present. Mr. Thomas Chambers was called to the chair. After the preliminary exercises were gone through, and the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed, the roll-call showed eleven members present, but the arrival of six others a few minutes after made the number seventeen. There were also several visitors and Mr. Harrison the local instructor. The subject of purchasing two lamps for the society's use came up for discussion, and it was moved by the secretary and agreed to by the meeting, that the sum of 10/ be appropriated by the treasurer for this purpose. The sum of £1 4/1½, amount from the defunct branch society that had been in the hands of the former treasurer, was handed over to the present treasurer, and also the sum of 6/ subscription received lately from members by the secretary. A letter from the general secretary re payment of subscription by members, was read by the instructor, and after a short discussion it was moved by Mr. T. Chambers and unanimously agreed to by the meeting, that an account be rendered by the secretary to all backward members who are receiving JOURNALS. The establishment of a loan bank in connection with the society was brought up, and the subject was dealt with at length by the instructor, but he felt he could not invite Mr. Palache over to lecture on the subject before attending the mass meeting of the Citizens' Association to be held at Falmouth on Tuesday 18th. The matter was left for consideration on the motion of Mr. Wm. Gayle, seconded by Mr. T. Beckford. It was pointed out by Mr. Harrison how difficult is the ascent of the road passing through the district just a few chains from the Lagoon, and the inconvenience that portion around the Lagoon presents to pedestrians and others in time of flood, and he suggested that the society pass a resolution and ask the D.P.W.D. to make a deviation of the road, so as to escape that part where the water often floods near Fontebelle estate and the steep ascent near Lower Content. He thought the better way was to send one copy of a petition to the new representative of the parish to the Legislative Council and another to the D.P.W.D. Moved by Mr. Lunan, and seconded by Mr. East that a petition in the name of the society be got up by the president and secretary and forwarded to the Director of Public Works and the member for the parish of Trelawny within a near date. Agreed to by all. Mr. David East (a member) then offered his services to go and see the mile post where the deviation may begin from, and report to the president. The acting president at this stage moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Harrison for the way he interested himself in the society's matters, seconded by the secretary, This was followed by the Benediction, and the evening's proceedings were brought to a close. Early on Friday 14th instant, Mr. Harrison, instructor, visited the Waldensia School Garden, then went off to Brown's Mount and Mount Lebanon, looking up the peasantry and their holdings. During the fourth week of January the competition plot of the above School Garden was inspected by Mr. Harrison. The usual sharp drought of February is on. Peas and beans lately planted are being badly hit by the weather.—N. A. LIVINGSTON, Secretary.

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Avocat (Portland).—The monthly meeting was held on the 15th February. Owing to the day being a P.W.D., pay day, and there being a funeral in the district, the attendance was not very large. Among

those present were Mr. A. P, Hanson Agricultural Instructor Messrs McLarty, Moodie, Lafayette, Smith and the secretary. In the absence of the President Mr. David Moodie presided. The minutes of the previous meeting were taken as read, and with one or two deliberations from members who were present, were confirmed. As arising out of the minutes Mr. David Moodie's motion—"That in view of the general use of spring balances in place of weight scales. Be it resolved that these spring balances be so placed so as to do justice to the eyes of both seller and purchaser," also that of Mr. Timothy Williams. "That in view of the fact that considerable damage is done to fields and plantations by small stock ; be it resolved that this branch approach the government through the pareut society with a view to have the present high license to keep and use a fire arm reduced to four shillings." The mover on speaking on his motion showed in districts where one licensed individual now resides, two or more would be found, hence the reducti on would not be a loss to the revenue. Both resolutions was unanimously carried. The quarterly reports of the authorized persons were deferred till next meeting. The Instructor here addressed the meeting on the Loan Bank Scheme, and pointed out that the delay in the granting of special loans is due in part to the heavy restrictions laid on the local committee ; and the failure of the majority of people to produce valid securities. He also pointed out that the delay of the special loans should not be allowed to act as a deterrent from supporting the loan bank which is indeed the people's and will be of great benefit to them in a future calamity. The Instructor was listened to with great attention, and was warmly thanked for the lucid way in which he explained the matter, After which the meeting passed the following resolution "That it is the opinion of this meeting that the restrictions placed upon the committee of management in connection with the local loan bank for the granting of special loans, renders the scheme unworkable and should be modified ; and loans should be granted for other crops as well as bananas." The Instructor pointed out that this is the best month for planting bananas, and encouraging the growth of leguminous plants in the walks as it improves the soil and keeps down weeds. The members promised to arrange among themselves with a view of ordering some St. Vincent yam heads, and cow peas from the parent society. Arrangements were made for demonstration at Mr. Joseph McLarty's on the 6th prox., and Mr. Smith on the 7th. Avocat mission the morning of the next meeting day. At the next meeting the question for debate and a social will be discussed. After a vote of thanks to the Instructor. The meeting adjourned till the 8th prox.—F. EMANUEL NEBITT, Secretary.

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Port Royal Mountain (St, Andrew).—The monthly meeting was held in the Wesleyan school-room on Saturday the 15th February with the Rev. J. J. Kilpin Fletcher presiding. There were present Mr. J. Briscoe Travelling Instructor fourteen members and the acting secretary- The meeting was opened with prayer by the president, The minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed. The president presented a letter from the Colonial Secretary and said as no meeting was held since he had received the letter, (the meeting in January fell through for want of a quorum) he had taken upon himself as president and on behalf of the society to reply to the letter, the reply was read and approved, it was then moved, seconded and agreed that the president was correct in the steps taken to reply to the letter before a meeting was held. The president reported that he had attended several meetings on behalf of this society. So was unable to attend the half-yearly meeting in Kingston as a delegate from this branch. The treasurer being absent his report was then deferred till next meeting. The authorised person's report came in for a long discussion and the secretary was instructed to write to the general

secretary for information regarding these men. also to apply for a Book of Rules as recently amended for the guidance of this society. Mr. Briscoe then gave an address, he said that this society was one of the best in the Island, he was sorry to see so small an attendance and hoped the members were not getting careless. He encouraged one and all to mulch their lands, and also put in plenty of manure which will be to their benefit. Very valuable hints were given on co-operation and agriculture to the members present. The Instructor also encouraged the members to compete at the forth-coming show to be held at Woodford in St. Andrew in April next: several members promised to take exhibits to the show, at the close of the address, a vote of thanks was accorded Mr. Briscee who suitably replied. Mr. Briscoe promised to be up in the district for three or four days to give demonstration on the pruning of coffee and to prune grapes that have borne so much in the past. The matter of an emergency hospital was next dealt with, when a committee was formed consisting of Revs. J. J. R. Fletcher, G. Chaperlin, Messrs R. S. Henry C. C. Ireland, with power to add to their number to draft a petition to be sent to the Governor asking him to remove the Constabulary Station from Guava Ridge to Mavis Bank, and if that be done to convert the station premises into an emergency hospital. Petition to be submitted at the next annual meeting in March for signature of the members and others. The meeting came to a close after prayers were said by the president.—J. H. WITHWORTH, Actg., Secretary.

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CENTRAL (Portland)—A meeting was held here in the the schoolroom on the 22nd February 1912, when there were present the Rev. P. A. Conahan, President. Messrs A, P. Hanson, Instructor I. S. Williams, Treasurer, the Secretary, and seventeen other members. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. It was moved by Mr, Hanson and seconded by the president that Mr. E. M. Lewis be appointed Assistant Secretary as the secretary has plenty of work in connection with the Loan Bank, This was agreed to. Messrs A. Daniels, H. McPherson, C. Hay, and J. Palmer were proposed and elected members of the Society. The secretary read a letter from the secretary of the parent society re-members and their subscriptions. This was fully discussed. In order that the society may be ready, the instructor called attention to the following requirements :—A statement of accounts duly audited, showing the financial transactions of the society for the present financial year, must be sent in to the secretary of the Jamaica Agricultural Society, through the instructor within a month from the 31st., March. He then gave a most important lecture summarised as follows :—The use of journals shown and instances from journal experiences given, showing why they should be preserved. The folly of burning weeds was impressed. Examples of how this practice is prevalent among small settlers were given. Great stress was laid on the fact that banana holes should be 2 ft., square and 1½ ft.. deep, that maiden suckers should be planted, and that they should be planted to meet the Spring market. Cocoa should be well pruned, and each cut tarred. Coffee is a neglected crop, and this should not be, because planting it amongst bananas, a position suited to its growth—there will be no extra cost for its cultivation. The best method of draining. This was illustrated on a blackboard and its advantages over other methods clearly shown. St. Vincent yams and cow peas were recommended for planting as they yield liberally. Further: the cow pea plant makes an excellent green crop manure, besides producing nutritious food. The president moved a vote of thanks for the instructor which was heartily responded to. He also supported the remarks of the lecturer. The meeting then adjourned till the 4th Saturday in March. S. A. POWELL, Secretary.

Enfield (St. Mary),—The regular monthly meeeting met at 3 p.m. for business. There were present the Rev. W. S. Taylor president, vice-president Mr. H. D. Sherriff. Mr. J. R. Beckford, Mr. E. Heslop, treasurer, the secretary, and twenty other members of the branch. The meeting was opened with prayer. There being no new members to be enrolled the secretary was asked to read the minutes of the last meeting, this was done and they were confirmed. The correspondence was next read. The standing order was suspended and the president and vice-president gave reports of the meeting held at Annotto Bay on the 18th inst., and the destitute condition of the people in and around the Enfield district. All the gentlemen spoke regrettably on the state of destitution prevailing in the districts, when it is noted that so many as twelve persons died from actual starvation. As a result of this. the president moved the following resolution, that the committee consisting of himself, the secretary, vice president, Mr. Sherriff and Mr. G. W. Fox meet and draft a resolution to be forwarded to His Excellency the Acting Governor, the Parochial Board and representative for the parish this was duly seconded. Mr. H D. Sherriff then gave the following notice of motion that as Mr. W. McCleary has proved hinself to be inefficient as an authorised person, his name be removed and Mr. Z Espeut be recommended in his stead, seconded by Mr. J. Brown. Relief Work.—It was moved by Mr. H. Brown and seconded by Mr. T. R. Beckford that this branch approach the parochial board and ask them to resurvey and remodel road No. 6 from Enfield to meet the new main road being opened up at Harmony Hill. This to be done as relief work. The business of the evening being completed the meeting was adjourned until the 12th March. Immediately after the adjournment of the meeting the committee met, and the following resolutions were drafted. A covering letter with copies of the resolutions was sent to His Excellency the Acting Governor and the Parochial Board. A copy was also sent to the Gleaner.

RESOLUTIONS.

After seriously considering the conditions existing among the peasants it was unanimously decided that the matter should be placed before His Excellency the Acting Governor, the members of the Parochial Board, and the Representative of the parish. Arising out of this the following resolutions were passed. Resolved that this branch of the Jamaica Agricultural Society views with regret the suffering from the want of food among the poorer classes resulting in death in various instances, and that no practical method has yet been adoped by those in authority to aliviate this state of things. Proposed by H. D. Sherriff and seconded by G. W. Fox. That this branch desires to emphasize the fact, that the sufferers are not to be blamed for being unable to meet their present demands as it is a known fact that the year 1912 has seen the most unprecedented drought for the last quarter of a centuary, That the inhabitants now being reduced to want and distress, have hitherto supplied the respective markets with over abundance of foodstuffs ; and now a bread-fruit which was hitherto considered a nuisance near the house, is being sold whenever it can be obtained ; at 2d., moved by H. Brown and seconded by D. Edie. That this branch regrets having to state that the proper officers of the Parochial Board who are to deal with such matters, have been most unsympbathetic refusing many applicants for immediate temporary relief, or neglecting to pay the necessary visits and acquainting themselves with individual cases this no doubt, has been partly the cause why many died ; moved by T. R. Beckford, seconded by H. Brown.—J. E. JOHNSON, Secretary.

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Guy's Hill (St. Ann).—The regular monthly meeting was held on Thursday 20th February at the Wesleyan Chapel, Guy's Hill. There were present W. Cradwick, Esq., Travelling Instructor, Rev. A. E. Lewis President, the Secretary and eight other members and two visitors

The meeting opened with prayer and the president expressed regret that that the meeting of last month fell through and that the attendance on that day was so very small. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. Letters were read and discussed from Mr. Barclay, secretary of the parent society re-Cattle Trespass Law and Membership; from Hon. R. P. Simmonds re Road from Windsor Castle and from Mr. A. Gardner of Troja re Goat. With regard to cattle trespass Mr. Barclay thought a copy of Inspector McCrea's "Sub-Officers' Guide" might be obtained and that that would set members right; but there were members present who knew pretty well what that book contains and it was pointed out that the grievance complained of did not come under any head or rather was not dealt with in that volume and that the other matter high rate of charges by so called valuators should be brought forcibly before the Government. Mr. Cradwick suggested getting a copy of the Law from the Government Printing Office. This was agreed to It was stated that there was the probability of obtaining good goats from St. Ann through the Travelling Instructor and the Secretary was accordingly instructed to inform Mr. Gardner that the society would not purchase his billy. Mr. Cradwick informed the meeting that the Instructor had been authorized to inspect the books of Branch Societies and to remove the names of delinquent members. Mr. Cradwick in addressing the meeting expressed regret that any controversy should have arisen about the working of Loan Banks, principally the difference in the amount for each share as that did not seem to be of vital importance. He expressed himself as being highly pleased with the management of the Guy's Hill, Carron Hall Bank so far as it had gone, and he desired to see all the members of the society become shareholders. The Instructor spoke very emphatically on the proper time and manner of pruning or suckering bananas and of the value of leguminous plants as fertilizers. The President suggested a change of the day for next meeting, the regular meeting coming so near Good Friday and it was decided that the next meeting be on the 13th of March. The Instructor promised to give some demonstrations on his next visit in April and asked that arrangements be made against his coming. The meeting adjourned.

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MAIDSTONE (Manchester)—The sixth annual meeting of this branch was held at Nazareth on Tuesday 25th February at 3 o'clock. There were present Rev. J. E. Harvey, President in the chair, Rev. W. C. Morrison J.P., vice-president, J. A Maxwell Secretary, nineteen members and fifteen visitors. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed and the following agenda was carried through; (1) Election of Officers (2) Secretary and Treasurer's report, (3) Discussion of Loan Bank. (4) A Paper by the Secretary on Soil Preparation, (5) A Lecture by the Rev. W. C. Morrison, (6) Report of "Authorised Persons." The election of officers resulted as follows: Rev. J. E. Harvey re-elected president, Rev. W. C. Morrison vice-president, Mr. J. A Maxwell secretary and treasurer. The Secretary's report showed that meetings were held for the year under review, five regular and one special, and that Mr. J. T. Palache, Agricultural Instructor for the district was present at all, save the special, and on each occasion he lectured on some subject—matters relating to the Agricultural, Social and Moral advancement of the district. The report showed further that the attendances was not as good as the previous year. The treasurer's report disclosed that all expenses were met and there was a balance in hand. On the motion of the vice-president and president the reports were adoped. An intelligent discussion took place on Loan Banks. The conclusion was that although a Loan Bank was a good thing, yet this society did not think it desireable to organize a bank at this juncture when there was so much of unrest about Loan Banks. Mr. Joseph Powell suggested the organization of a Mutual Self-help Society where the members could accumulate funds to fall back on in times of stress. The Secretary was instructed to get information regarding rules governing a

Mutual Society and report on same at the next meeting. The secretary now read a partial paper on soil preparation. The paper was heartily received. This was followed by a lecture from the Rev. W. C. Morrison. He gave a sketch of farming life in Canada. He said the soil was the basis of farming operation and in a lucid way told how the Canadian farmer went about his business ; and by a well organized, systematic and orderly planning of his work he achieved success. He advised those present to work on similar lines and if they do they too, would command a like success. The lecture was both practical and interesting. After a healthy discussion the chairman summed up—and emphasized some of the points raised by the lecturer. Both the Rev. Morrison and the Secretary were accorded a hearty vote of thanks. The next business was the report of the "Authorised Persons." They all made the same complaint: that is they were insufficiently equipped, consequently they were at times, afraid to make arrests of some suspected parties. They were however of opinion that their appointments had some check on praedial larceny. The Rev. Morrison J.P., pointed out that the function of the Authorised Persons was confined more to the detection of cases of praedal larceny and handing over to the District Constables rather than to making arrests. The meeting adjourned to meet on the third Tuesday in April.—J. A. MAXWELL, Secretary.

THE CULT OF THE COCONUT—ARTICLE VIII.

ESTIMATES.

In dealing with this side of the Cocos Nucifera of which these articles have been the subject, there are very many points that require consideration and explanation. It would be possible to supply a large assortment of estimates to meet different conditions and circumstances and which would be all more or less accurate.

As, however, the main object of these papers has been to give information to the "stranger within our gates" and the man who does not know much about this culture, the form of estimates chosen has been that which supposes the establishment of a coconut walk of 100 acres on land suited to coconuts but unsuited to bananas, and which deals with the whole cultivation from the actual purchase of the land upwards.

It is moreover supposed that the very best form of cultivation shall be put in operation, and no " good enough for a coconut " ideas are allowed to obtrude, the idea right along being to help the trees by the best reasonable means possible, such as extra high selection of seeds, regular forking of the soil and regular keeping clean. After the 15th year there should of course be added a charge for fertilization of the land not less than 40/ per acre.

It is to be plainly recognized that where the land is also such as can profitably grow bananas, the cost of the coconut culture becomes practically nil, and the results should be of the very best as regards returns. In such a case the returns would be much the same as in the estimate given, whilst the expenses would be estimated in such proportion to the expense and receipts from the banana culture as taste should direct. On the other hand, it is also clearly recognised that there is another cheap method of culture condemned in these articles, by which the expenses and cultivation

are reduced to the smallest possible point, and a much longer period is waited for returns, and in the end much smaller returns are obtained.

In the estimate herewith as far as possible the average has been kept to, and if anything, the expense side has been generously treated ; on the other hand the figures of receipts are for actual prices now ruling, and of course are liable to fluctuation with the ruling market.

A well laid out and cared for property of such a kind, should certainly average 80% of large nuts and between 60 and 70 coconuts per tree. This is a conservative estimate founded on facts.

AVERAGE ESTIMATE FOR 100 ACRE CULTIVATION OF COCONUTS IN JAMAICA.

Capital Output.

Cost of 100 acres of land including necessary building (say)				£800 0 0
Cost of 3 mules & Cart (say)				75 0 0
Cost of 1st years working				332 5 0
Cleaning up land @ 20/ acre	£100	0	0	
Lining 33 x 33 @ 3d	1	5	0	
Holing 3 x 3 @ 1/-25	8	0	0	
Seed-nuts @ 20/ 100 (4500)	45	0	0	
Planting @ 1/6 100	3	0	0	
Forking @ 2/6 chn.	100	0	0	
Brushing once @ 10/	50	0	0	
Cost of 2nd years working				200 0 0
Forking land @ 2/ chn.	100	0	0	
2 Brushings @ 10/	100	0	0	
Cost of 3rd years working				125 0 0
Forking land @ 1/6 chn.	75	0	0	
1 Bushing @ 10/	50	0	0	
Cost of 4th years working				125 0 0
Hoeing through land @ 1 6	75	0	0	
1 Brushing @ 10/	50	0	0	
Cost of 5th years working				100 0 0
Hoeing @ 1 6	75	0	0	
Bushing @ 5/	25	0	0	
Cost of 5 years supervision @ £100				500 0 0
Accumulated interest @ 6% on capital output to end of 5th year				401 0 0
Total capital outlay				**£2658 5 0**

REVENUE ACCOUNT.

	£	s	d	£	s	d		£	s	d
Cost of 6th years working				£311	10	0	Receipts for 6th year @ 1 nut per tree	£	s	d
2 Bushings @ 5/	£50	0	0				(4000) @ 70/ - -	14	0	0
Supervision	100	0	0							
Marketing 4 M coconuts										
@ 1/3 per 100	2	10	0							
Interest on £2658	159	0	0							
Cost of 7th years working				321	10	0	Receipts for 7th year @ 5 nuts per tree			
2 Bushings @ 5/	50	0	0				(20,000) @ 70/ - -	70	0	0
Supervision	100	0	0							
Interest	159	0	0							
Marketing 20 M.	12	10	0							
Cost of 8th years working				334	0	0	Receipts for 8th year @ 10 nuts per tree			
As 7th	321	10	0				(40,000) @ 70 - -	140	0	0
Add Marketing 20 M. nuts	12	10	0							
Cost of 9th years working				359	0	0	Receipts for 9th year @ 20 nuts per tree			
As 8th	334	0	0				(80,000) @ 70/ - .	280	0	0
Marketing 40 M. nuts	25	0	0							
Cost of 10th years working				396	10	0	Receipts for 10th year @ 35 nuts per tree			
As 9th	349	0	0				(140,000) - -	490	0	0
Marketing 60 M. nuts	37	10	0							
Cost of 11th years working				433	0	0	Receipts for 11th year @ 50 nuts per tree			
As 10th	396	10	0				(200,000) - -	700	0	0
Marketing 60 M. nuts	37	10	0							
Cost of 12th years working				458	0	0	Receipts for 12th year @ 60 nuts per tree			
As 11th	433	0	0				(240,000) - .	840	0	0
Marketing 40 M. nuts	25	0	0							
Cost of 13th years working				458	0	0	Receipts for 13th year as 12th -	840	0	0
As 12th				£3081	10	0		£3374	0	0

Thus at the end of 13th year the receipts in excess of expenditure would be nearly £300 after paying a charge of 6% interest on whole capital outlay from the 1st day of the investment.

After the 15th year on coconuts planted and cultivated in this way a return of 70 nuts per tree might be looked for: this estimate for returns being founded on careful accounts kept of 1000 trees during 5 years when the average ran nearly to 75 nuts per tree in a mixed lot of trees. On picked trees under close observation an average of 137 nuts per tree for 5 years was obtained. The final article of this series will summarize briefly in the form of Do's and Don'ts, all the chief points dealt with heretofore.

(Sgd.) LEO A. WATES,
Agricultural Instructor.

RATS.

£500,000 Damage.

In a recent issue of the Gleaner newspaper there appeared the startling information that in a period of two weeks the number of *rats reported as killed in the Parish of Portland was no less* than — — — 316

Trelawny—one week — —	187
Hanover—two weeks — —	60
Total	563

This apparently represents what the Local Boards of Health regard as the process of "extermination" '*resolved*' on in their minute books.

Will you afford me space to inform these Bodies and readers of your Journal what the real problem is that they are "up against."

On this property an increasing Crusade to reduce the members of the family of 'brer rats' has been pursued year in, year out. Results :—

1909 — — —	10245
1910 — — —	4541
1911 — — —	7406
1912 — — —	6229
Total	28421

These were all brought to the works yard, and their tails cut off. In addition to the efforts of the trappers, there are between 200 and 400 bamboo pots baited with poisoned food from time to time. The number which must perish by this means cannot, of course, be ascertained. But it would be a conservative estimate to fix it at another 12,000. So that quite 40,000 have been disposed of in a cultivated area not greatly exceeding half a square mile.

And still they come! The empty cocoa pods testify to that.

In 1910, owing to the alarming destruction of young cocoanuts, I decided to place rat guards on 3000 trees. The sales return jumped up in the next two years by £150 per annum, after making

allowance for the rise in prices. In the closing weeks of December 1912 the weekly catch average 500 rats. Later on when wil fruits and nuts are in season, and mother rat is in the straw, thes numbers will rapidly fall, and the trappers declare " it no pay we fe bodder.'

My object in writing thus fully is :

(1) To afford some idea of what the food bill of rat sums up to.

(2) To set your Branch Societies thinking how it is the husbandman seems to labour in vain : and to give one of the reasons, at least, why he remains poor.

I consider it an underestinate when I state that the loss to the Island annually is well over £500,000. In coffee, in canes, cocoanuts, corn, cassavas, in arrowroot and sweet potatoes. On wharves where flour, meal, and corn are stored : in grocers, shop, and private houses. And then there is the dissemination of disease, with the Doctor's Bill to come in.

The prosperity of the State of Demmark is in a measure accounted for by the effectual measures put in force for the distruction of vermin. It has been estimated that the toll levied by Mr. Rat in the British Isles is something like £15, 000,000 per annum.

A. U. Dixon.

New Ground
Lime Hall
Feb. 3. 1913.

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Many months ago you were kind enough to send me a tin of Ratin or Rat Virus. I never used it until about two months ago ; Rats are never bad with me except from November to February and March. I kept it in a cool place and about the middle of November, I opened the tin and put it out in some of the worst places, (as the directions called for) in small places on the forks of the cocoa trees. I examined them later and found most of the baits taken. As regards the results, I cannot attribute the present scarcity of rats in the cocoa walk entirely to it, as I used other means to kill them them, one being giving a price of 1½ per head to my banana cutters to kill them, and cutting out all the bush and trees hear the cocoa. Also I used considerable of your E. X. O. paste which is excellent. But I think the preponderance of evidence is that it has done a lot of good, and it is well worth a continuance of trial by cocoa planters.

The E. X. O. rat exterminator which you supply is not only an excellent rat killer, but its great virtue is that it can be placed where the arsenic poisons cannot be placed with nearly absolute safety. It is almost certain *it will not be eaten by stock.* I have tried many times to get my mules and horses to attempt to eat it but they never would touch it. Of course I never run my stock in

the cocoa walk, but one is never sure that a fence may not break and some stock may not stray in there in spite of the most careful watching.

(Sgd). Edward Ashman,
Morant Bay.

28th Feb., 1913.

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As we have before explained this E. X. O. or Rat Extermination is not a Virus but a rat poison not very dangerous to domestic animals unless taken in quantity. We experimented with ten rat poisons advertised as deadly to the rodents, and found this E. X. O. the one must readily taken and certainly deadly.

Ratin is a rat Virus' and we imported a special preparation made for the tropics. Hitherto the Virus imported apparently lost their vitality and became merit. Ratin certainly has, as related above, withstood a severe test in having been kept for months.

Rat Virus, if it could thus withstand tropical conditions, we consider would be a most effective way of getting rid of rats, as it is not a poison, so is safe to use in house, yard or field, while if one rat becomes infected with the virus-fever, this appears to be infectious and contagious and spreads. It is probably true that if rats take this fever mildly and recover, they may be immune and possibly their offspring for a generation also (although this is improbable) but that can only apply to a few rats at the most. If any one desires to test Tropical Ratin again we are willing to import another trial lot.

Rat-Killing :—We have often written that many people will cry out about the loss to their crops caused by rats and yet do little or nothing to fight the enemy. We have also recommended Branch Societies to show some practical efforts at co-operation by every member pledging himself to use some of the means we have recommended to get rid of rats, or combine, fix a day and have a rat killing afternoon. We have often seen rats' nests in every other bunch of bananas undisturbed, while the owner complained of rats eating his cocoa. Not one of such nests should be let alone but the nest poked out with a long stick ; a rat or young ones will often be found in the nest ; dogs waiting below will kill them.

Where rats live in holes in the ground and there is a colony of them, they can be quickly destroyed with Bi-Sulphide of Carbon; every rat can be killed in a few minutes. This stuff however which has to be carefully handled can be bought in 5 lb drams at 5/11d. A piece of cotton waste saturated with Bisulphide, stuffed in each rat hole, and shoved in with a stick as far as possible, the hole being then quickly stopped with earth, will either cause the rats to bolt from any holes not stopped or will kill all below in 5 minutes.

Unfortunately, Bi-Sulphide cannot be used in houses because the rats their live in the roof or in the walls.—Bi-Sulphide is a gas heavier than air and so, sinks, and, being volatile, it must be used in an air-tight or nearly air-tight place. And it has such a fearful smell that a full sniff of it is unpleasant. It is very inflammable too and no light must be used near it.—Ed.